MONDAY
October 30, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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CARBON EMISSIONS

'Developed countries to miss 2030 target'

NEWS » PAGE 12

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Humanity is on trial now: Sonia Gandhi

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

MARATHA QUOTA STIR

Jarange-Patil remains firm on hunger strike

NEWS » PAGE 10

REALITY CHECK

GDP is a flawed metric to assess economic welfare

It deflects attention from several issues

OPINION » PAGE 9

PERFECT SIX

Rohit, bowlers help India crush England

SPORT » PAGE 15

8 feared dead, 32 injured in train accident in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM/
VIZIANAGARAM

Rescue efforts going on at the site where a passenger train rammed another near Visakhapatnam on Sunday. AP

At least eight passengers were killed and 32 injured when a passenger train rammed another from behind at the Kantakapalli station, 36 km from Visakhapatnam, in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday.

Officials said the Visakhapatnam-Rayagada passenger train (No. 08504) hit the stationary Visakhapatnam-Palasa passenger train (No. 08532) on the Vizianagaram-Visakhapatnam line, resulting in the derailment of four coaches around 7 p.m. The toppled coaches fell on the track and crashed into one another, they added.

Railway officials did not reveal the exact death toll, but said the number may rise. District Collector S. Nagalakshmi said eight persons lost their lives and 32 were injured. The injured were being shifted to hospitals in Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram.

Power supply went off reportedly due to the snapping of power lines during the accident and rescue operations continued in the dark. It is feared that many more could be trapped in the mangled coaches.

The Railways has set up helplines to provide information about the accident victims and the hospitals they were shifted to. The helpline numbers are 0891-2746330, 0891-2744619, 8106053052, 8500041670; Railway numbers 83003, 83004, 83005 and 83006. Information counters have been set up at Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, and Palasa railway stations.

Visakhapatnam Collector Mallikarjuna said passengers' relatives can contact 9030226621 or 7036111169 for assistance.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Blasts kill two, injure 41 at prayer meet near Kochi

Explosions occurred at a convention of Jehovah's Witnesses attended by nearly 2,000 people; police detain man, a 'disenchanted' member of the religious group, who 'confessed' to the crime

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

At least two successive explosions ripped through a crowded Jehovah's Witnesses prayer convention at Kalamassery, 24 km from Kochi in Kerala, on Sunday morning, killing two people and injuring 41 other worshippers.

The police identified one of the deceased as Kumari, 53, from Thodupuzha. The other victim remains unidentified.

The police have detained Kochi resident Dominic Martin, a "disenchanted" member of the religious group, as a suspect in the case. They have booked him under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, paving the way for a possible National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe.

Explosion site: People rush to save themselves after a blast at a convention centre in Kalamassery of Kerala on Sunday. PTI

The blasts occurred at 9.38 a.m., when an estimated 2,000 people assembled for the meeting, primarily families with women and children. Investigation took a startling turn on Sunday afternoon when Mr. Martin arrived at the Kodakara police station in Thrissur and "confessed" to the crime.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan indicated that the death toll might climb, given the severe burns and shrapnel injuries sustained by five attendees. He said 17 of the injured were in intensive care units. The images of the explosion's destructive aftermath played cyclically across television channels, creating a sense of shock, anguish, fear, and anger. Mr. Vijayan has called an all-party meeting on Monday. He had spoken to Union Home Minister Amit Shah before leaving from New Delhi, where he was attending a party meeting, for Kerala.

At a hastily convened press conference on his arrival, Mr. Vijayan slammed a Union Minister for allegedly vitiating the communal atmosphere by posting an incendiary message on a social media platform.

He did not name the individual, but indicated that the Minister faced police prosecution and legal jeopardy.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
MORE REPORTS
» PAGE 7

NEARBY

State objects to NMC guidelines on medical seats

BENGALURU
The State government has decided to file its objections to recent NMC guidelines fixing the number of medical seats in a State in proportion to its population. » Page 3

Cong. candidates for Council polls announced

BENGALURU
The Congress released the list of its candidates for three teachers' and two graduates' constituencies in Legislative Council for which elections are likely to be held in 2024.

» Page 4

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 7

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South Africa and chases... nothing simple or straightforward

We obviously have a blueprint when batting first, and we've shown that in terms of the scores we have been able to post, but we can't say with conviction that we do have one when we are chasing, says the Proteas skipper Bavuma

R. RAGU

S. Dipak Ragav

For a tournament that had mostly seen lopsided contests for the first three weeks, South Africa and Pakistan served a thriller in which both teams at various stages were brilliant, amateur and somewhere in between as well.

It was the perfect final game of the World Cup at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, where a nearly 30,000-strong crowd cheered both teams enthusiastically, appreciating quality cricket. In the end, Temba Bavuma's men somehow prevailed despite making a mess of a straightforward chase. While the one-wicket win has almost sealed the African nation's place in the last four, the Proteas again showed their propensity to panic and make a hash of things unprovoked.

The team's approach in this World Cup is to be aggressive with its batting firepower, which has worked wonders when batting first.

But ahead of the match, it was apparent that South Africa's weakness would be chasing, with its only loss coming against The Netherlands when batting second, and it nearly tripped up again in the same department on Friday.

Against Pakistan, when Aiden Markram was going well at one end, and the asking rate was well under control, its batters ought to have been more circumspect, especially when playing with just six batters and five bowlers.

Bavuma conceded the team doesn't have a blueprint while chasing yet and that they will need to figure it out soon.

"We obviously have a blueprint when batting first, and we've shown that in terms of the scores we have been able to post. We can't say with conviction that we do have the blueprint when we are chasing. We're going to get into this situation again, that I do know, and we obviously want to show more of a clinical display with the bat," said the South African skipper in the post-match presentation.

"I think we did have luck on our side. We did give them opportunities to get into the game. But fortunately for us, I think the gods were with us," he added.

Bavuma also agreed that the team needs to be more calculative and temper their aggressive approach according to the situation. The in-form Heinrich Klaasen was one such offender trying to launch Mohammad Wasim into the stands when the team had lost a wicket a few overs before. Similarly, bowling all-rounder Jansen collected 10 runs off two balls and brought the equation to needing just 36 more runs in the 37th over. But instead of applying himself, he gave a simple catch off the next ball when all he needed to do was stick around with Markram.

"We didn't show that control. I think I've said this probably 50 times, we've spoken about our brand of cricket being positive but I think probably in situations like that, there is room for us to maybe be a bit more calculative, maybe identify where the risks are and how we can have low-risk options in terms of coming up against whatever the challenges are."

"Again, like I said, I think it's conversations that we're going to need to have, and it's the learnings that we're going to have to take out of performances like these," the skipper explained.

Eventually, Markram himself would play a loose shot against Usama Mir with 21 runs left, to set the cat amongst the pigeons. Fortunately, his sensational 91 cushioned the lower-order collapse, allowing the last three batters to crawl across the line.

For a team struggling to shake off the 'chokers' tag in ICC events, South Africa can't afford to make the mistakes it did against Pakistan if it harbours any hope of winning the elusive World Cup.

Mahmudullah. ANI

Bangladesh must get to the root of the problem

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Stakeholders in Bangladesh cricket need to do some serious introspection after the team's disappointing performance in the World Cup.

Even though the team, which has lost five matches on the trot and has collected only two points from six outings, and has three matches left, skipper Shakib Al Hasan bluntly admitted that it was Bangladesh's worst ever performance in the World Cup.

Following its humiliating 87-run defeat to the Netherlands, which came into the event through the qualifiers, Shakib did not make any effort to defend Bangladesh's embarrassing run – a possible outcome of an undesirable cocktail factors, including the skipper's fallout with former captain Tamim Iqbal prior to the tournament (which could have created groupism), the lack of ideal preparation, pressure due to high expectations, below par showing by most of the batters and some players' reluctance to come out of their comfort zone.

"We are not this bad a team. It could be the World Cup or this atmosphere, high expectations. It could be a lot of other things. If we work on it, we might find the answers," said Shakib.

Shakib pointed out some factors which impacted Bangladesh's campaign. "As a batting unit, other than Mahmudullah and Mushfiqur Rahim, we were very poor."

Explaining why Mahmudullah, the centurion of the match against South Africa, was fielded at No. 7 against the Dutch, Shakib said, "We have a team of limitations in batting and bowling. We are not comfortable bowling or batting in different times and positions. We are not comfortable facing bowlers in certain times, so we have to adjust all the time. If our batters did well at the top, Riyad (Mahmudullah) and Mushfiq (Mushfiqur) could have performed their roles.

"I agree that maybe if Riyad *bhai* batted higher in the order, we could have done well."

With some cricketers, including Shakib, Mushfiqur and Mahmudullah, stepping into the last phase of their long careers, Bangladesh's cricket authorities would do well get to the root of the problem that prevented the team from performing up to its potential in the prestigious event and spot the next generation of players who could serve the side well.

GAME TIME

The past week in the ICC World Cup saw some thrilling finishes. A quiz on interesting chases across editions from 1975

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
India has the unfortunate distinction of losing by one run on two occasions (1987 and 1992) to Australia. In the first instance, many attribute it to a four being converted to a six during the break being the 'culprit'. Who was the batter who hit that shot?

QUESTION 2
In 1992, with four required off the last ball, this Indian going for the third run started celebrating when the non-regular wicketkeeper David Boon gathered a throw by Steve Waugh and caught him short. Name the batter who paid the price for being over-enthusiastic?

QUESTION 3
Who made this comment about which action of his in the final ball that cost his side a place in the 1987 semifinals: "As a youngster the spirit of the game meant a lot to me. And because of the gesture and the way it was appreciated, that'll be a memory that will always be with me".

QUESTION 4
2015 had two instances of a side winning by one wicket. If one involved Australia and New Zealand, who were the teams in the other match?

QUESTION 5
Though South Africa beat Sri Lanka by one wicket (with 10 balls remaining) in a Super 8 phase of the 2007 World Cup, the match is remembered for a bowler scalping four wickets in four ball to spice up the chase. Name the Lankan who was a big hit in the IPL also.

QUESTION 6
The first thriller of the inaugural World Cup came about when West Indies got the better of Pakistan by one wicket after being 203 for nine in pursuit of a target of 267. Name the last-wicket heroes who put on the gritty winning stand.

QUESTION 7
Pakistan overhauling Sri Lanka's 344 in this World Cup is highest total successfully pursued in the ICC World Cup. Which team previously held the distinction and name the record-setting century-maker who made it possible at Bengaluru in 2011?

QUESTION 8
In the 2003 edition, this fancied side crashed out in the first round thanks to a fatal error in reading the required target, as set by the Duckworth-Lewis method, in the match against Sri Lanka. Which team and who was the on-field batter who took flak for failing to get the numbers correct?

QUESTION 9
The 2019 summit clash saw host England prevail over New Zealand thanks to a superior boundary count in the match and Super Over combined. How many boundaries did Eoin Morgan's men manage that helped them claim the title for the first time?

Question 10: This iconic photograph shows the scene following the dismissal of Allan Donald in the final over of the chase which cost South Africa the 1999 semifinal and put Australia on course for a second triumph. Name the bowler and fielder who played their part in the drama.
THE HINDU ARCHIVES

THE ANSWERS

1. Dean Jones, 2. Venkatapathi Raju, 3. West Indies great Courtney Walsh not running out Pakistan's Saleem Jaffar at the non-striker's end for backing up too much, 4. Afghanistan and Scotland with the former chasing down a target of 211 in 49.3 overs, 5. Lasith Malinga, 6. Deryck Murray and Andy Roberts, 7. Ireland besting England in 2011 with Kevin O'Brien smashing a 50-ball century, 8. South Africa and Mark Boucher, 9. 26 to New Zealand's 17, 10 Damien Fleming and Mark Waugh.

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Drought takes its toll on the yield of city's favourite bean

Farmers are doubting if even 5% of avarekai crop they have grown can be harvested this year; trouble began for them from the sowing season itself as germination did not take place properly

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

The drought situation in Karnataka has taken its toll on the seasonal favourite avarekai too, leaving farmers doubting if even 5% yield can be harvested this year. Avarekai, usually hits the market around the winter season and the demand peaks during the festival of Sankranti in January. As the southwest monsoon was deficient, the rain-dependent crop has withered away in the growing regions around Bengaluru.

Trouble began for farmers from the sowing season itself as germination did not take place properly. Plants that managed to get past that stage struggled with leafing and bean formation. "Most farmers could not sow the seeds as there was no rain. Some took up sowing on small patches in their fields and even those plants wilted in the heat," explained Anjaneya Reddy, a farmer representative from Kolar district.

Farmers say that with no regional supply of avarekai, the crop coming from Andhra Pradesh might dominate the markets in Bengaluru this time. FILE PHOTO

In Magadi taluk

Similarly, in Magadi taluk – a hub for avarekai and from where many vegetables coming to Bengaluru are grown – farmers claimed that the entire crop has been destroyed. Chennathimmaiah, a farmer from the region, said, "The crops have died without rain. No farmer in the entire taluk has had any luck with avarekai in the last three years. We spend close to ₹50,000 on cultivating each acre and this time I spent around ₹2 lakh and I have no hopes of recovering any money." He added that farmers are expecting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to provide them relief of ₹25,000 per acre.

No misty weather

Raita sangha leader Mallikarjun Kunnur said avarekai growers across the State had been affected by the unfavourable weather conditions this year. "By October, there should be light rain and a chill in the air for avarekai crop to grow well. This time, the weather is similar to that of summer in March and without that dew and misty weather, it has been a difficult time for avarekai farmers," Mr. Kunnur said.

The farmers also pointed out that with no regional supply of avarekai to the markets, the crop coming from Andhra Pradesh might dominate the markets in Bengaluru, leading to a steep hike in the price. "It might go anywhere from ₹60 to ₹100 a kg," they said.

Onion price skyrockets as arrivals drop

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Not just avarekai, but several other crops, especially onions, have also been affected by drought in the State. As severe crop loss has been reported from Chitradurga, the major onion-growing belt in the State, the prices of onions have skyrocketed in the market. Onion is being sold at over ₹60 a kg in the retail market of the city for a week now.

"During this time of the year, in a normal year, the Yeshwantpur APMC yard would receive over 1,000 loads of onions from Challakere in Chitradurga every day. But there has been widespread crop damage due to drought and the arrivals are less than 100 loads a day, which is less than 10% than usual. This has pushed up the price of onions," said Ravi Kumar of Bangalore Potato and Onion Traders' Association. He said even supply from Maharashtra had reduced also a trickle when compared with previous years.

However, the quality of onions available now in the market has improved many folds when compared with that of those arriving in the previous month. "The new onions are red and are of very good quality. For over a month now, the only available onions were old onions, with their skin peeled out," Ravi Kumar said. The old 'peeled out' onions are still available in the market for lower prices.

Based on a prediction in July-August that the price of onions will skyrocket this season, the Union government is implementing several measures to keep it in check, including one on Saturday. The Union government has fixed a minimum export price for onions at $800 per tonne till December 31. This is a non-competitive price and will discourage exports, industry insiders said.

"This move may lead to farmers dumping the crop they are holding in the market, which may bring a correction in the prices soon," a senior procurement officer with a chain grocery store in the city, said.

CM: High command will decide Cabinet reshuffle

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid the perceived ongoing internal tussle in the Congress over leadership issue and a Cabinet reshuffle, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that the issue will be decided by the Congress high command.

When his response was sought on the possible reshuffle after 30 months, he shot back: "Has every legislator said this? This (Cabinet reshuffle) will be decided by the party high command." He said that such discussions were unwarranted.

The Congress is grappled with aspirations of many senior legislators who have missed out from the Cabinet and frequent airing of their dissatisfaction in the media. The recent suggestion on change of leadership and a possible Cabinet reshuffle is being seen as coming from Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's followers. He has also warned the partymen not to air any internal matters before the public.

INBRIEF

Three labourers caught for hunting peacock for its meat

Forest Department officials caught three labourers from Odisha for hunting a peacock to consume its meat, on the outskirts of Tumakuru on Saturday. Based on a tip-off, a team of officials led by Deputy Conservator of Forest, Tumakuru district, Anupama H. raided a brick factory at Panditanahalli and arrested the accused.

The accused have been identified as B. Nayak, 44, Baishaku Daavu, 41, and Duba Kaapath, 38, from Belapur in Odisha. They had been working in a brick factory for the last one month. They are also professional hunters and used to lay traps to hunt birds and animals in the forest area, forest officials said. The officials recovered 1.5 kg of peacock meat and feathers along with snares and net from them. The three were about to cook the meat when the officials raided the spot and caught them.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated October 30, we have an explainer on the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, which criminalised the killing of wild animals and selling, or possessing animal articles such as claws, skin, or horns.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (October 30, Monday), the following explainers are available:

- The Indian Railways' revenue problem **bit.ly/economrail**
- Was Turkiye earthquake due to interrupted 'chat' between fault lines? **bit.ly/Turkeyquake**

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2 knocked down by buses in separate incidents

Two other accidents involving BMTC buses in October

October 14

Gangadhar, 21, an engineering student who was riding pillion on a scooter, was killed and the rider was injured when the two-wheeler was knocked down by a BMTC bus near the flower market at Yeshwantpur

October 6

Bharath Reddy, 24, a private firm employee, was killed when a BMTC bus knocked him down at M.S. Palya while he was negotiating a bad patch of road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two people were killed in separate accidents involving Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses in the city since Saturday.

A 20-year-old garments factory worker was killed when a BMTC bus knocked her down on Arakere Main Road at Hulimavu on Saturday. The victim, Veena, a native of Shivamogga and living in Janata Colony at Hulimavu gate was working in Shahi Garments. She was crossing the road to go to work when the bus driven by Lourdswamy, 50, knocked her down and dragged her body for a few yards until passers-by raised an alarm to stop the bus. Veena sustained severe head injuries and was killed on the spot. Based on a complaint by Manjunath, a cousin of Veena, the Hulimavu police filed a case against Lourdswamy.

In the other case, a 45-year-old realtor was killed when a BMTC bus knocked him down on Govindarajanagar Main Road on Sunday around 8.30 a.m. Kumar was returning home from K.R. Market when the bus knocked down his motorcycle. Kumar sustained head injuries and was killed on the spot. Vijayanagar traffic police have registered a case against the bus driver.

Play of light and shadow

Different stages of the partial lunar eclipse as seen from Bengaluru in the early hours of Sunday. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Missing minor boys found dead in the basement of under-construction building

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two boys aged nine and seven, who had been missing since Friday, were found dead in stagnant water in the basement of an under-construction building on Bannerghatta Road on Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as Arsalan Khan, a class II student, and his younger brother Ameen Khan, who was studying in a madrasa. They were sons of Asghar, an autorickshaw driver living in a rented house at Tilaknagar.

Ameen Khan and his brother Arsalan Khan were residents of Tilaknagar in Bengaluru.

According to the police, Asghar filed a complaint saying that his sons ventured out at about 11 a.m. on Friday to play but did not return. After a search, the police alerted their network in public places to look for the children.

While the search was on, the police received a message that a body was found floating in stagnant water in the basement of an under-construction building. The police rushed to the spot and alerted Fire and Emergency Services personnel, who recovered two bodies on Sunday evening and shifted them to St. John's hospital for post-mortem.

The police are now contemplating booking a case against the building owner for leaving the basement filled with water without any precautionary measure.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, OCT. 30	
RISE 06:12	SET 17:54
RISE 19:09	SET 07:24
TUESDAY, OCT. 31	
RISE 06:13	SET 17:54
RISE 20:00	SET 08:23
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 01	
RISE 06:13	SET 17:53
RISE 20:55	SET 09:23

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	23
Mysuru	32	21
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be comfortable. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C A slight warm and humid weather to continue. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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Batteries from traffic signal pole stolen

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The traffic signal at Nanjappa junction on Longford Road at Ashoknagar has been rendered non-functional for the past two days as two unidentified men stole four batteries supplying power to the signal lights and CCTV cameras at the junction.

The theft came to light on Saturday when staff from the Traffic Management Centre noticed that the signal was defunct and alerted the maintenance engineer. Chethan S., an engineer with a private firm tasked with taking care of the signal, visited the spot to find that four batteries were missing. Based on his complaint, the police registered a case of theft and verified the CCTV footage from in and around the area. They found that two men stole the batteries around 4 a.m. on Thursday.

THE HINDU
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NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR ALLOTMENT OF SHOPS AT MADRAS SAPPERS INSTITUTE, MADRAS ENGINEER GROUP & CENTRE, BENGALURU-560042

1. Officer-in-Charge, Non-CSD, Madras Engineer Group & Centre, Bengaluru-42 invities applications for allotment of various regimental shops on rental basis at this Institute. Shops would be allotted to highest bidder based on under mentioned priority in descending order :-
(a) War widows/ widows of def personnel killed while on duty.
(b) Disabled Soldiers.
(c) Ex-Servicemen.
(d) Spouse/widow of Ex-Servicemen.
2. Details of shop & sequence of auction are as under :-

Ser No	Shop No	Category of Shop	Plinth Area (In Mtr)
(a)	05	Clothing and Garments	5.70 x 2.70
(b)	08	Health Care Products	5.70 x 2.70

3. Application form (at no cost) may be obtained from Office of Non CSD, MEG & Centre or Main Gate, MEG & Centre as per following details :-
(a) Issue of application from **01 Nov 2023** to **15 Nov 2023** (from 0900hrs to 1700hrs).
(b) Date of receipt of application from **05 Nov 2023** to **20 Nov 2023** (upto 1100hrs).
4. Auction of shops will be carried out on **21 Nov 2023** by **1130hrs** at Non CSD,MEG & Centre.
5. Detailed instructions on eligibility and terms and conditions be read carefully before applying.

Government of Karnataka
Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Finance Department,
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru
No.: FD 03 BMB 2023 Date: 26.10.2023

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)

1. Aggregate Amount : Total Rs. 2000 Crore Rs. 1000 Crore (12 Year Tenure) and Rs. 1000 Crore (13 Year Tenure)
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort)
3. Date of auction : October 31, 2023

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**

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Was Turkiye earthquake due to interrupted 'chat' between fault lines?

A new paper in *Science* used kinematic slip inversion and fault-property modelling to find that the Turkey-Syria earthquake could be traced to a seismic cascade over the east and the north Anatolian fault lines, and that these lines had been in constant dialogue through the exchange of stress

Vijay Shankar Balakrishnan

On February 6, 2023, a pair of powerful earthquakes struck Turkiye and Syria, leaving destruction in their wake. The latest known death toll is 50,000; more than a lakh other people were injured in 11 provinces. At least 1.5 crore people and 40 lakh buildings were affected; some 3.45 lakh apartments were destroyed.

The earthquakes weren't entirely unexpected given Turkey's seismic history, but scientists were startled by their unprecedented scale.

A study published on August 3 in the journal *Science* unearthed the intricate union of tectonic forces that led to the disaster, advancing researchers' understanding of these quakes, their unexpected power, and what they portend for the way scientists are trying to forecast others like them.

Debris from destroyed buildings in Samandag, south Turkey in February. EMRAH GUREL/AP

Geological anatomy

Scientists seek to understand how earthquakes occur and grow to devastating sizes. The earth's crust consists of tectonic plates. Fault lines form where these plates interact, as they collide, pull apart or slide past each other. When these plates abruptly grind and slip past each other, they release pent-up pressure, leading to earthquakes.

The earthquakes in Turkey occurred along the East and North Anatolian Fault Lines, which run 700 km and 1,500 km long, respectively. And these geological behemoths, the new study found, were in constant dialogue.

"Imagine a conversation among faults, where they communicate through stress interactions," Zhe Jia, the lead author of the new study paper and a postdoc at the University of San Diego, California, told this writer.

But during the quakes, the conversation was disrupted by something like shouting. A seismic "cascade" broke through fault bends and step-overs, which are otherwise barriers to the propagation of an earthquake.

Fault bends and step-overs are like curves and gaps in a road. For earthquakes, they are places where fault lines change direction or have a little gap. They affect how and where earthquakes happen. "These known fault lines played a significant role, but the sheer magnitude of the quakes far exceeded expectations," Dr. Jia said.

Cascade of ruptures

The unusual interaction initiated a cascade of ruptures, resulting in a larger-than-usual total rupture length and a more tremendous potential for destruction. A testament to this is the fact that, in places where there were no buildings and/or where no people died, scientists observed craters after the earthquakes.

Dr. Jia has studied many earthquakes, but he said he was still surprised by the 'dialogue' between the fault lines. University of Southern California, Los Angeles, seismologist Sylvain Barbot and Istanbul's Kandilli Observatory seismologist Sezim Guvercin said the same thing.

The first earthquake (M7.8) struck near Gaziantep on a strike-slip fault, a type of tectonic plate boundary where two plates slide horizontally past each other. The next quake (M7.7) hit near Ekinözü, roughly 200 km north. They were Turkiye's strongest in more than 2,000 years and caused substantial damage along the East Anatolian Fault, which runs through eastern Turkiye, extending from near Turkiye's border with Syria to the northeastern region.

The Narlı Fault and Çardak-Sürgü Fault Zone are also primarily located in eastern Turkiye. They extend from the southern part of Turkiye to the northeastern part, roughly parallel to the border with Armenia. They both experienced separate earthquakes. The ground near the coast some 200 km to the southwest began to move like a liquid. The Cyprian geological survey department recorded a minor tsunami near the island in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Comparative analysis

One feature of the studies of these earthquakes is that scientists raced against the clock to gather and analyse data after the earthquakes, allowing them to piece together how they evolved. This is crucial to understand the associated hazards.

> The lessons from Turkiye's earthquakes have far-reaching implications. They were revelations of the planet's inner workings, underscoring the unpredictability of seismic events

Researchers such as Dr. Jia received satellite data nine hours after the earthquake. While some researchers compared the 2023 quakes to historical records and GPS data to make sense of the numbers, Dr. Jia's group also used supercomputers to run simulations using the available data and compared them to GPS data and images of the earth before and after the events.

Their work in *Science* was distinguished by two methods: kinematic slip inversion and fault-property modelling. Kinematic slip inversion is like rewinding an earthquake video to understand how fault surfaces moved, indicating what might have occurred underground. In fault-property modelling, researchers estimate the characteristics of the fault, like friction and material properties, to predict how an earthquake is likely to spread along it. These predictions are then compared to real earthquake data to gain insights.

"Think of it as watching for differences between two otherwise identical pictures," Dr. Jia said.

Such measurements show researchers the surface but also something deeper. They "measured the deformation of the earth's surface, helping us to determine the shape of faults and the subsurface slip that occurred," Dr. Barbot, who studied the Turkey-Syria earthquakes separately, said.

Science and policy

Earthquake science extends beyond the lab and influences policy and disaster management. The lessons from Turkey's quakes have far-reaching implications, according to experts. They were revelations of the planet's oft-enigmatic inner workings, underscoring the unpredictable nature of seismic events.

Then again, Turkey had been aware of the possibility of such an earthquake, Dr. Barbot said. Turkish law requires its buildings to adhere to building codes designed to prevent the sort of disaster following the events of February 6. However, these policies have reportedly not been fully enforced everywhere in Turkey for various reasons. "Unfortunately, this gamble led to a serious disaster," Dr. Barbot said.

Shock after shock rippled through Turkey's grounds as Dr. Guvercin's team gathered news about people trapped under the rubble of toppled structures. "We undertook this study at times with tears and at times rebelling against the corrupt system that caused the disaster - it will remain a lament in my memory," she added.

(Vijay Shankar Balakrishnan is a freelance science journalist in Germany.)

THE GIST

The earth's crust consists of tectonic plates. Fault lines form where these plates interact, as they collide, pull apart or slide past each other. When these plates abruptly grind and slip past each other, they release pent-up pressure, leading to earthquakes

The Narlı Fault and Çardak–Sürgü Fault Zone extend from the southern part of Turkey to the northeastern part, roughly parallel to the border with Armenia. They both experienced separate earthquakes. The ground near the coast some 200 km to the southwest began to move like a liquid

Researchers used two methods: kinematic slip inversion and fault-property modelling. Kinematic slip inversion is like rewinding an earthquake video to understand how fault surfaces moved. In fault-property modelling, researchers estimate the characteristics of the fault, like friction and material properties, to predict how an earthquake is likely to spread along it

BIG SHOT

Archaeologists and residents gather around rock paintings at the Ponta das Lajes archaeological site, in a rural area of Manaus, Brazil, on Saturday. The archaeological site was exposed following a drought in the Negro River, unveiling rock paintings that, according to archaeologists, date back between 1,000 and 2,000 years. -- AP/PTI

WHAT IS IT?

The gravitational constant

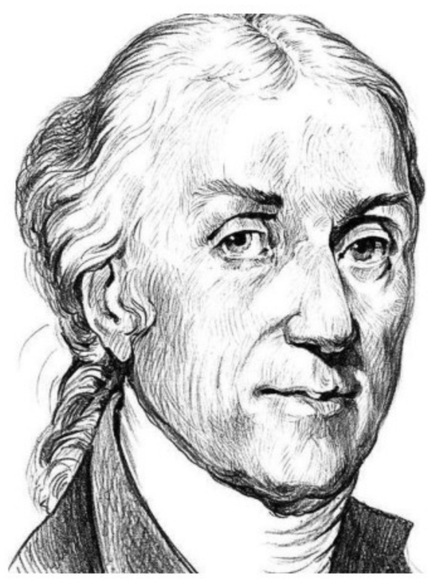
Arkatapa Basu

Any mass warps the fabric of space-time around itself. The more the mass, the more the warping. The force that an object feels when travelling along this warped path is called gravity. It tends to move the object towards the mass.

The strength of this force depends on the gravitational constant. Denoted by a 'G', it is a fundamental physical constant. It was first accurately determined by Henry Cavendish in 1797. G is an essential component of both Isaac Newton's law of universal gravitation and Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity.

In Newton's theory, the gravitational force between two objects is directly proportional to the product of their masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them. G is the proportionality constant.

In Einstein's theory of general relativity, G appears in the equations that describe the curvature (or the 'warping') of spacetime in the presence of mass and energy. This theory provides a more accurate description of gravitation, particularly in extreme conditions, such as near massive celestial objects.



Henry Cavendish. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The precise value of G is crucial to understanding celestial mechanics and to determine the mass of celestial bodies. Yet its value has been determined only with an uncertainty of about 22 parts per million. Its precise determination remains a topic of ongoing research in the field of experimental physics.

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State objects to NMC guidelines on capping medical seats

'This order will adversely impact healthcare in South India, including Karnataka. This is an arbitrary decision taken by the Union government without consulting stakeholders'

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to file its objections to recent guidelines of the National Medical Commission (NMC) fixing the number of medical seats in a State in proportion to its population. The NMC has fixed a ratio of 100 undergraduate medical seats to the population of every million.

If the new guidelines were to come into force, it would be a long time before the State could open any new medical college – government or private. Given that the State's population is estimated to be 6.73 crore, it can have 6,700 undergraduate medical seats as per these norms. However, the State already has 11,745 medical seats.

The National Medical Commission has fixed a ratio of 100 UG medical seats to the population of every million.

This will essentially mean a freeze on the addition of new medical seats in most south Indian States, even as many north Indian States – where the ratio of medical seats to population is far lower than what has been prescribed – will get to add most of the new medical colleges in the near future. Apart from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu has also voiced its objections to the new guidelines.

"This order will adversely impact healthcare in South India, including Karnataka. This is an arbitrary decision taken by the Union government without consulting any stakeholders. Therefore, we are not going to abide by these guidelines and we will file our objections soon. We are committed to our 'One district, one medical college' policy and we will start new government medical colleges in every district soon," said Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil.

However, the NMC has defended its decision.

"Various courts had made observations on the crowding of medical colleges in certain regions. For example, recently, in the case of K. Vasudevan vs. State of Tamil Nadu and others, the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court cautioned the NMC against crowding of medical colleges...Taking these aspects into consideration, and with an objective of providing the right teaching environment to medical students and improving the overall quality of education, the provision of limiting undergraduate seats in each State to 100 per million population has been included in the recently notified Minimum Standards Requirements guidelines 2023," the NMC said in a statement recently.

"It is expected that this will reduce regional disparities in the availability of healthcare professionals and will go a long way in ensuring effective quality of education. With this ratio, there will still be potential for the addition of about 40,000 MBBS seats in the country if the medical colleges are evenly distributed," it said, defending the move.

Leopard sighting near Kudlu Gate worries residents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A leopard was spotted wandering in AECS Layout, Singasandra, Kudlu Gate, on Sunday morning causing panic among residents living in the vicinity. The Forest Department has now deployed its personnel to search for and capture the wild cat. However, the officials are yet to sight it.

While some people saw the big cat roaming around, a video which has surfaced shows an animal resembling a leopard crossing the road in front of a moving vehicle. Sources said the driver seen in the video reportedly confirmed it was a leopard. Since this is near an international school, many parents are scared, said a parent of a child of the school.

Social media posts have been doing the rounds that a leopard was spotted at the AECS Layout. The movement of the leopard has been captured on CCTV. Two dogs are seen following the leopard in an video where the leopard was spotted.

"We have deployed our staff and they are on the lookout for the leopard. However they are yet to find anything," said N. Ravindra Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru Urban. There are small patches of forest land in Kadugodi (Whitefield) area and it is not uncommon for leopards to wander out in the wee hours or dark hours, said another forest official. The official said there is no need for panic and the department will find out where this big cat has emerged from. Last year, two leopards were on the prowl on the outskirts of the city, one in Turahalli State Forest Area and another near Chikkajala on Kempegowda International Airport Road.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Relatives of leaders fielded by Cong. and BJP in Rajasthan

29 The Congress and the BJP have fielded candidates who are kin of leaders or belong to political families for elections in Rajasthan. The BJP has given tickets to at least 11 people while Congress has fielded 18. PTI

The number of people killed in a mine disaster in Kazakhstan

42 People died in a blaze at an ArcelorMittal mine making it the worst accident in the country's post-Soviet history. The tragedy came after a series of deadly incidents at the ArcelorMittal mines. AFP

Amount pulled out by Foreign Portfolio Investors in October

20,300 in ₹ crore. The withdrawal is due to a sharp surge in the U.S. treasury yield, and the uncertainty due to the Israel-Hamas conflict. PTI

The number of resettled Bru families with no allowance

2,000 Bru families. They were rehabilitated in Tripura's Dhalai district and have not been getting their monthly stipend for the past year, a leader of settlers claimed. PTI

The participation of women in India's workforce

37 in percentage. The participation of women in the workforce increased to 37% in the 2022-23 fiscal from 23% in 2017-18, as per the Union Education Minister. PTI

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The Indian Railways' revenue problem

While investment in railways boosts manufacturing, and services as well as tax revenue for the government and more job opportunities, a key organisation like the Railways cannot be allowed to go the Air India way — the investments made should add to its revenue

ECONOMIC NOTES

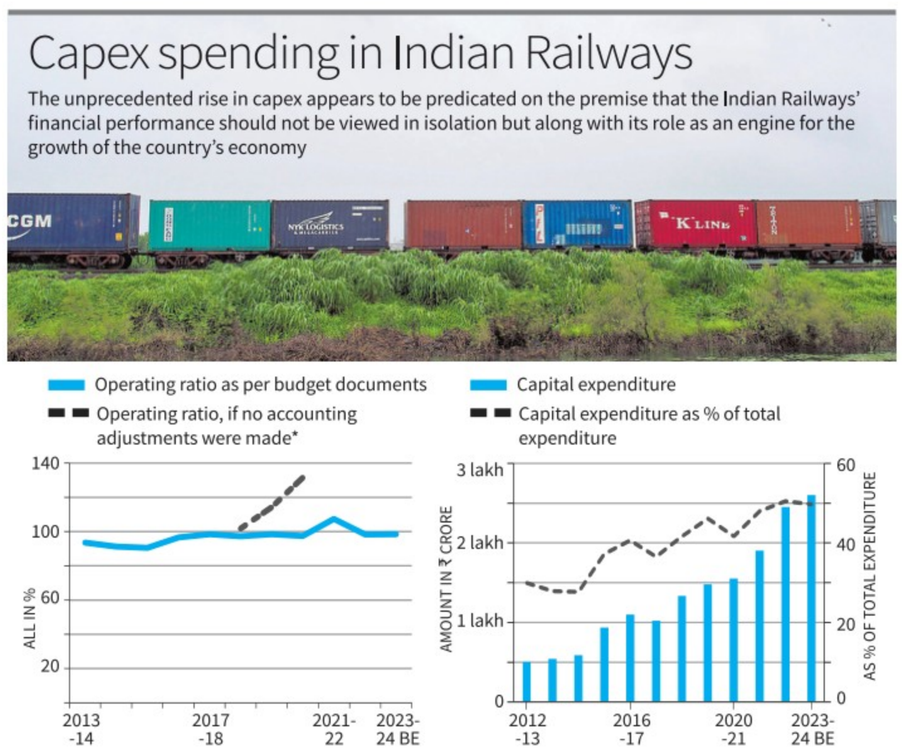
Sudhanshu Mani
M. Ravibabu

This is the first of a three-part series of articles on the Indian railways, its capital expenditure and freight business.

The Indian Railways (IR) has been on a spending spree with respect to capital expenditure (capex), particularly after the government merged its rail budget with the main budget. However, its operating ratio, which is the ratio of ordinary working expenses to the gross traffic receipts, has shown no improvement. A lower ratio implies better profitability and surplus for capital investment.

The trap of rising debt

Since the IR continues to have a total lack of surplus, it has been augmenting the funds raised through Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) and Extra Budgetary Resources (EBS). The merging of budgets helped this cause as GBS from the central government could be increased without much scrutiny. However, with respect to EBS, there is a price to pay. The IR's spending on repayment of principal and interest is pegged at ₹22,229 crore and ₹23,782 crore respectively, which together make it 17% of revenue receipts, a sharp rise from less than 10% till 2015-16. It appears that this debt liability was noticed as capex relied almost entirely on GBS in this year's budget. Despite this, the unprecedented rise in capex appears to be predicated on the premise that the IR's operating and financial performance should not be viewed in isolation but along with its role as an engine for the growth of the country's economy. Investment in railways boosts manufacturing and services, tax revenue for the government and allows for more job opportunities. However, a key organisation like the IR cannot be allowed to go the Air India way – the investments made should be productive for IR's revenues.



Identifying the problem

The IR's freight segment is profitable whereas the passenger segment makes huge losses. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report presented in Parliament on August 8, 2023 states that there was a loss of ₹68,269 crore in all classes of passenger services during 2021-22, with all the profit from freight traffic nullified in cross subsidising passenger services. This is nothing new for the IR but the situation has become grimmer and since any significant increase in passenger fares is unlikely, the IR has no option but to boost its freight volumes and in turn its revenue.

The annual growth in freight volume and revenue of the IR in the period April-July 2023 stand at 1% and 3% respectively, while the economy grows at 7%. This is a dismal performance. The IR's modal share in India's freight business has steadily decreased to approx. 27% from upwards of 80% at the time of independence.

The objective of this series is to examine how the freight business of IR can be improved. The movement of cargo by the IR is artificially divided into goods and parcels. The division is not semantic but indicates a paradigmatic difference in approach with respect to tariff rules, handling, moving and monitoring. Shippers, however, are not interested in these differences as their concern is mainly about the safe movement of their cargo from point A to B at the least cost and as fast as possible. The time has come for the IR to shed such an artificial divide so that cargo can be divided based on its characteristics as bulk and non-bulk (or value added).

While the divisions are not water tight, bulk cargo would essentially refer to large volumes of cargo (full train loads or amenable for into full train loads) which can be easily handled mechanically and non-bulk cargo would be smaller in volume and less amenable for mechanical handling.

The lessening share

The 11 commodities in the IR's transport basket account for 90% of tonnage and revenue, of which coal is around 45% and iron ore and cement are around 10% each. Although these three still account for two thirds of the IR's total freight volume, the share of the IR in their transport has reduced over the years. For example, coal consumption was 602 and 978 million tonnes (MT) in 2011 and 2020 respectively while the rail transport share was 420 and 587 MT respectively; the rail share fell from around to 70% to 60% in a ten-year period. Though it improved to 64% in 2023 it is still lower than what it was in 2011. Similarly, the share of exim containers moving in and out of ports hovered between 10% and 18% since its introduction in 2009-10, with the 2021-22 figure being 13%. It should be noted that private container train operation policy, initiated in 2006 to boost the rail share of container movement, has not made any significant dent in improving the share.

Further adding to the woes of the IR is the constantly fluctuating key index of Net Tonne Kilometres (NTKM), which fell for two successive years in 2015-16 and 2016-17 by 4% and 5% over the preceding years – first time such a fall has happened for two consecutive years. Demonetisation perhaps had some effect in the fall as NTKM recovered in 2017-18 by 11% registering an increase of 1.6% in the three-year period starting 2015-18. However, NTKM continued to fluctuate as it fell again in 2019-20 by 4%. In the seven-year period ending 2021-22, NTKM grew annually at the rate of 3.5% – much less than the road transport growth rate.

Sudhanshu Mani is leader of the Vande Bharat project and a rail consultant and M. Ravibabu is founding member, Anekdhara, a public policy portal.

THE GIST

- The Indian Railways (IR) has been on a spending spree with respect to capital expenditure (capex), particularly after the government merged its rail budget with the main budget.
- The CAG report presented in Parliament on August 8, 2023 states that there was a loss of ₹68,269 crore in all classes of passenger services during 2021-22, with all the profit from freight traffic nullified in cross subsidising passenger services.
- The objective of this three part series is to examine how the freight business of IR can be improved.

What has caused the recent thaw in U.S.-Venezuela ties?

What role did the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine play in the relief of sanctions against the Latin American country? Why was Machado disqualified from public office?

Garimella Subramaniam

The story so far:

Maria Corina Machado has won a huge victory in the October 22 Venezuelan opposition primary. The Biden administration, just days earlier, had agreed to ease years-long brutal sanctions against the country's oil, gas and mining industries, in exchange for President Nicolas Maduro conducting free and fair elections in Venezuela in 2024.

Why now?

Part of the explanation for the re-engagement between Washington and Caracas lies in the challenges presented by the shifts in geopolitical realities consequent to the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. Within weeks of the February 2022 invasion, the Biden administration dispatched top officials to negotiate with Caracas, the country with the world's largest oil reserves, so as to smooth the effects of the energy crisis issuing from the conflict. Another dimension to the re-engagement were the apprehensions over the potential regional security implications of Moscow's backing of its Latin American allies in the event of a deepening conflict between the two superpowers. Caracas has more or less weathered the consequences of the U.S. and EU sanctions on its energy sector, thanks to crucial support from Cuba, China, Russia and Iran.

For President Maduro, the revival of ties with Washington could mean the beginning of the end to his government's disastrous international isolation that followed the Trump administration's severance of diplomatic relations with the country. From its position as Latin America's fourth largest economy when Mr. Maduro took office in 2013, Venezuela has slumped within years to becoming one of the region's poorest. The sanctions relief will enable Venezuela's state-owned oil firm to resume oil production and potentially restore the country's access to the U.S. financial markets.

What is the road ahead?

The Venezuelan opposition has received strong poll ratings since the victory in the 2022 regional polls in the Barinas state, the homeland of former President and Mr. Maduro's mentor Hugo Chavez. But it is highly fragmented, as evidenced by the eight candidates who ran in the recent primary, even as it continues to encounter formidable resistance from the Maduro government.

President Maduro has himself remained unfazed by international outrage against his autocratic ways. The crippling socio-economic crisis at home has forced a mass exodus of over seven million people across the region, with the International Criminal Court (ICC) investigating Venezuela for crimes against humanity in the wake of the humanitarian crisis that followed. One UN report documented a high number of extrajudicial killings by the Maduro regime.

Moreover, it is by no means certain that Ms. Machado, from the Vente Venezuela party, would be allowed to take on President Maduro in next year's contest, despite the overwhelming backing she received in the primary. The former legislator was disqualified in June from holding public office for 15 years on allegations of corruption and support for American sanctions. Ms. Machado is counting on hopes that her massive victory in the recent opposition primary will hold sway over the electorate and force the government to reverse the decision. But her hardline stance, such as the demand for President Maduro to be tried for war crimes, support for economic sanctions on the government and advocacy for foreign military intervention against the Maduro regime may harm rather than help her cause.

It would therefore be premature at this stage to presume that President Maduro, who has been in office since 2013, would want to risk a competitive contest next year. The Biden administration has accordingly signalled that the quantum of sanctions relief would depend on the distance the government can cover towards democratic progress. Arresting Venezuela's downward spiral ought to remain uppermost on the opposition's priorities.

Garimella Subramaniam is Director, Strategic Initiatives at AgnoShin Technologies.

THE GIST

- The Biden administration had agreed to ease years-long brutal sanctions against the country's oil, gas and mining industries, in exchange for President Nicolas Maduro conducting free and fair elections in Venezuela in 2024.
- Within weeks of the February 2022 invasion, the Biden administration dispatched top officials to negotiate with Caracas, the country with the world's largest oil reserves, so as to smooth the effects of the energy crisis issuing from the conflict.
- Maria Corina Machado has won a huge victory in the October 22 Venezuelan opposition primary.

Cauvery woes: Erratic distribution of rainfall a major concern in Kodagu

Planters in the district fear that uneven distribution during different months of the monsoon this year may result in loss of coffee and pepper crops to the tune of ₹850 crore

DROUGHT AND DISTRESS

B.S. Satish Kumar
MADIKERI

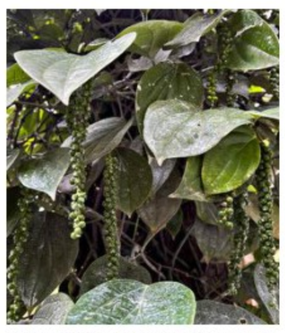
It is not just deficit monsoon that is worrying farmers in Kodagu, which is the main catchment area and place of origin of river Cauvery. This hilly district in Karnataka, which accounts for about 36% of India's coffee production besides the country's best quality pepper, is concerned over uneven distribution of rainfall. The planters here fear that uneven distribution during different months of the monsoon this year may result in loss of coffee and pepper crop to the tune of ₹850 crore.

Bose Mandanna, former vice-chairman of Coffee Board and an expert on Kodagu's climate, says the loss of ₹850 crore is a very conservative estimate arrived at by considering 25% loss in coffee yield, accounting for ₹750 crore, and 20% in pepper yield amounting to ₹100 crore.

He observes that coffee requires 60 to 80 inches of evenly distributed rain in a year. But of late, the rainfall has not been evenly distributed in various months in Kodagu.

"It remains dry when we need rain, and it rains when it should be dry," he says.

Bose Mandanna, former member of Coffee Board of India and an expert on coffee industry as well as Kodagu ecosystem, at his coffee estate in Kodagu district. K. MURALI KUMAR



Pepper grown at a coffee estate in Kodagu district. K. MURALI KUMAR

Showers of various kind

"We need blossom showers in February-March for Robusta variety of coffee, and in March-April for Arabica variety of coffee. If it rains during this time, then there is nearly 80% of assurance of good crop yield. After 20 days to a month later, we need backing showers. Later, when the fruits develop, we need further rains," he explains.

Such consistency in rain pattern, which was regular for centuries, is not being seen now due to the impact of climate change. The situation has been particularly bad this year, he notes.

Referring to the cumulative deficit of 42% rainfall in Southwest Monsoon in Kodagu this year, he says, "It has created multiple problems of high temperature and lack of moisture. Coffee requires temperatures below 35 degrees Celsius. While generally the temperatures are going up as an impact of climate change, the increase in temperature can be clearly felt this year due to deficit monsoon that has reduced moisture."

No more springs

He points out that springs, which are an integral part of the district's ecosystem, have not come to life at all this year, as the area did not receive rain as expected during June, July and August.

"Springs actually replenish river Cauvery river and its tributaries. But absence of springs has affected flow in Cauvery this time. Also, from agricultural perspective, whatever water we have now will dry up as soon as rains end because there is no continuous water supply in the form of springs. Though there are some rains now, they will not help in recharging groundwater," he points out.

He says, "Climate change has made the weather system completely unpredictable. The farmer, who depends on the traditional and time tested calendar of events for agricultural operations, is caught off guard.

"Earlier, the annual rainfall in Kodagu would vary from 40 inches to 250 inches, depending upon the location. But now there are areas which are witnessing heavy rains while other areas remain dry." Kodagu district president of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha Manu Somaiah says this would only increase the burden of loan and push farmers towards selling their land. Such a trend would further affect the Kodagu ecosystem by increasing commercialisation.

Biodiversity expert calls for collating rainfall data from farmers

B.S. Satish Kumar
MADIKERI

Expressing concern over the change in rainfall pattern and temperature in Kodagu, an expert well versed with the hilly district's ecosystem has suggested that the government should ask research centres to collate rainfall data from farmers' rain gauges to study the impact of climate change on the district's ecosystem as well as catchment area of river Cauvery.

"Kodagu has a practice of almost all the farmers keeping rain gauges in their estates and maintaining daily rainfall data for several decades. The government should ask reputed research centres to get such data from farmers to assess the impact of climate change," says C.G. Kushalappa, former dean of College of Forestry, Ponnampet and an expert on Kodagu's ecosystem.

The rainfall measuring instrument. K. MURALI KUMAR

"The need of the hour is to study and understand the patterns related to impact of climate change on different areas of Kodagu through micro-level data," he says.

This is because the impact of climate change varies in different areas within the small district.

Analysis of rainfall data from 110 farmers had showed a pattern of rainfall going below 50% of average two times once in 12 years.

Congress candidates for Council polls announced

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress on Sunday released the list of its candidates for three teachers' and two graduates' constituencies in Karnataka Legislative Council for which elections are likely to be held in 2024.

The term of the three seats to be represented from graduates' constituencies of which one is currently vacant are coming to an end on June 21, 2024. Similarly, the term of current members representing three teachers' constituencies are also coming to an end on June 21, 2024. Besides, one more teachers' constituency whose term will come to an end on November 11, 2026, is vacant.

Currently, the 75-member House has 34 BJP, 29 Congress and 8 Janata Dal (Secular) members besides 2 vacancies and one Chairman. There is one Independent member. The Congress list has Ramoji Gowda (Bengaluru Graduates'), Chandrashekara B. Patil (North East Graduates'), Puttanna (Bengaluru Teachers'), K.K. Manjunath (South West Teachers'), and D.T. Srinivas (South East Teachers').

Mr. Puttanna, who had won from Bengaluru Teachers' constituency on BJP ticket, had resigned from the seat to contest from Rajajinagar Assembly constituency in the recently held elections on Congress ticket. He, however, lost to former Minister S. Suresh Kumar. Sources said Mr. Srinivas, who will contest from South East Teachers' had contested as Independent last time. He and his wife Poornima Srinivas, a former BJP legislator, joined Congress recently. Mr. Chandrashekar B. Patil, a confidante of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, is a sitting member from North East Graduates' and he has been re nominated as Congress candidate. Mr. Ramoji Gowda, who had lost from Bengaluru Graduates' previously has been renominated to contest by the party.

As pressure mounts, Karnataka CM reiterates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With less than a month for the tenure of the current Chairman of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes to end and speculation rife over the fate of the socio-economic survey, popularly called the caste census, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday reiterated his government's commitment to accept the report.

Since the publication of caste census report by Bihar government, pressure has increased on the Congress government here to accept the socio-economic survey report conducted by the commission.

While the Chief Minister has indicated in the past that the report would be accepted, dominant land owning communities Vokkaligas and Lingayats have opposed the report stating that it was not scientific. Congress leaders are also divided on the issue.

"We are committed to accept the caste census report. The census was conducted during my previous regime under the chairmanship of H. Kanthraju. When he submitted the report, the then Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy or his successors B.S. Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai did not accept the report," the Chief Minister said at an event here.

"Now the present chairman K. Jayaprakash Hegde has indicated that he would submit the report in November or December. We will accept the report when he submits."

Earlier, Mr. Hegde, whose term will end on November 26, had also said that he would submit the report before his tenure ends.

On Sunday, the Chief Minister also pointed out that no one is born genius and everyone can become one if given a chance.

He said: "Talent is not confined to caste and religion. If opportunity and advantages of education is given to everyone, talent

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO:NO: E-RD 165 GRC 2023 Date:04.10.2023

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the reports of the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District, and after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that the Sri Varidhi Souharda Co-Operative Society Ltd and Sri Varidhi Chits Pvt. Ltd, Bengaluru are involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that Sri Varidhi Souharda Co-Operative Society Ltd and Sri Varidhi Chits Pvt. Ltd, Bengaluru and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of Sri Varidhi Souharda Co-Operative Society Ltd and Sri Varidhi Chits Pvt. Ltd, Bengaluru and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of the Sri Varidhi Souharda Co-Operative Society Ltd and Sri Varidhi Chits Pvt. Ltd, Bengaluru.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the report of the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

"ORDER"

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong to Sri Varidhi Souharda Co-Operative Society Ltd and Sri Varidhi Chits Pvt. Ltd, Bengaluru.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches all movable properties as specified in the Annexure to this order believed to have been acquired by the Sri Varidhi Souharda Co-Operative Society Ltd and Sri Varidhi Chits Pvt. Ltd, Bengaluru either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the Sri Varidhi Souharda Co-Operative Society Ltd and Sri Varidhi Chits Pvt. Ltd, Bengaluru and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishments, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishments is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the aforesaid movable properties, from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forthwith vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the
Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department (Services-1,
SSLR & Special Cell)

Annexure

ಶ್ರೀ ವಾರಧಿ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಕ್ರೆಡಿಟ್ ಕೋ-ಆಪರೇಟಿವ್ ಸೊಸೈಟಿ ಪ್ರೈ.ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಶ್ರೀ ವಾರದಿ ಚಿಟ್ಸ್ ಪ್ರೈವೇಟ್ ಲಿ ಯು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಖಾತೆಗಳ ಮತ್ತು ಹಣದ ವಿವರ

Sl. No	Bank Name Address	IFSC Code of Bank	A/C No	Amount in Rs.
1	Karuru Vysya Bank, Chandra layout	KVBL0001350	FD 1350401000000675	6,00,000/-
			Interest	1,69,506/-
2	Karuru Vysya Bank, Chandra layout	KVBL0001350	FD 1350401000000675	5,00,000/-
			Interest	15,171/-
3	Karuru Vysya Bank, Rajaji Nagara	KVBL0001308	1350135000001423	49,310/-
4	The Bengaluru DCC Bank Ltd. Malleshwara,	2009	119002760109	5,000/-
5	SVC Co-Operative Bank Ltd. Byatarayanapura Mysuru Road	SVCB0000156	115603130004890	2060/-
6	Laxmi vilas Bank/D.B.S Bank Basaveshwara Bank	Bank code: 144 Basaveshwara nagara	FD 01441170000002320002	1,00,000/-
			Interest	19752/- (04/08/2025)
7	Laxmi vilas Bank/D.B.S Bank Basaveshwara Bank	Bank code: 144 Basaveshwara nagara	FD 01441170000002080002	1,00,000/-
			Interest	14603/- (25/04/2025)
			TOTAL AMOUNT	15,75,402/-

Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government
Revenue Department (Services-1,
SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/1899/2023-24

CORRIDORS OF POWER

God resides in conscience

Former Chief Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy recently challenged the leaders of the ruling Congress to swear on the deity at Dharmasthala and declare that Ministers had not taken any bribe

for transfers of officers in the last five months.

When Energy Minister K.J. George (*in picture*) recently held a press conference in Delhi, he was asked by some reporters if he would take up Mr. Kumaraswamy's challenge.

Without saying a yes or no, the Minister cleverly said, "I am a Christian. If I swear to my honesty at Dharmasthala, will Mr. Kumaraswamy actually believe it?" He further said that he believed in all faiths and all gods. More importantly, he said god resides in one's conscience and he would not do anything against his conscience.

"I first became a Minister in Veerendra Patil's Cabinet in 1989 and have been a Minister in many Cabinets since, including Mr. Kumaraswamy's. I can say with a clear conscience that I have not taken any money for transfers. If someone else has taken under my name, I will conduct an inquiry," Mr. George said, in the true fashion of a seasoned politician.

Awkward moment for Eshwarappa

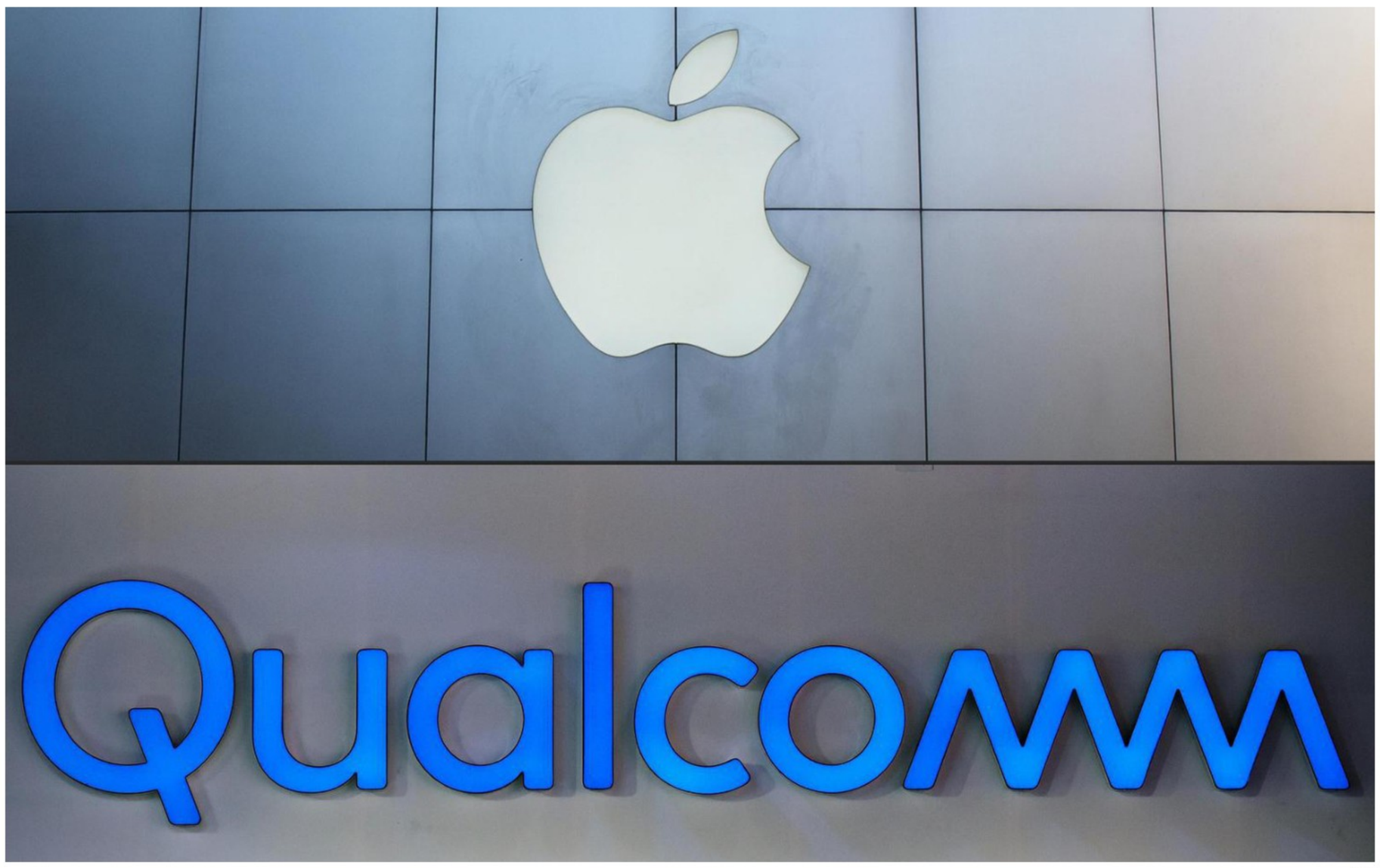
Former Deputy Chief Minister K.S. Eshwarappa (*in picture*) had an embarrassing moment when one of his offhand remarks went on air recently. Minutes before addressing a press conference in Shivamogga, Mr. Eshwarappa had a phone call, probably from a seer who had invited him to take part in a programme. By then, the media had already placed their mikes with logos, and

a few news channels had started live streaming of the press conference too. After disconnecting the call, the BJP leader, unaware of the fact that he was on live, told his colleagues on the dais, "One can escape Yediyurappa's *kaata* (trouble), but not a swamiji's *kaata*. The seer has been calling me repeatedly, asking me to attend his programme, even though I assured him I would," Mr. Eshwarappa said, referring to the telephonic conversation call with the seer. Shivamogga district BJP president T.D. Megharaj and Shivamogga MLA S.N. Channabasappa responded with laughter. They were all surprised later when they learnt that the conversation had gone live.

In the next press conference, a couple of days later, Mr. Eshwarappa casually enquired with the reporter of that particular channel why that conversation was live streamed. Interestingly, this conversation also went live on the same channel. These episodes seem to have forced the politicians to be extra cautious before making any comments in front of the mikes.

Jahnavi T.R.
Sathish G.T.

CACHE



AFP

Qualcomm's pivot into the Generative Artificial Intelligence market

According to CEO Cristiano Amon, the chipmaker "is evolving from a communications company to a connected processing company." This transition was visible in the clutch of products unveiled at the Snapdragon Summit 2023

John Xavier

Last week, Qualcomm made a series of announcements that highlights the chipmaker's pivot to Generative Artificial Intelligence (gen AI). All the products it unveiled were aimed at supporting gen AI applications so mobile units can perform AI-based tasks on device. This is testament to the fact that use cases for gen AI are set to rise exponentially.

"About a year ago, people had about 1 or 2 use cases [for gen AI]. Now, we see hundreds of use cases, and I expect, as we get to 2024, to see at least thousands of use cases," Qualcomm CEO Cristiano Amon said at the Snapdragon Summit 2023.

A big shift

According to Mr. Amon, the chipmaker "is evolving from a communications company to a connected processing company." That transition was visible in the clutch of products unveiled at the summit.

To start with, the company launched two advanced chipsets, one for PCs, and the other for Android smartphones. Both are built to perform high-end computing, including running large language models on device.

The newly launched system-on-chip (SoC) for PCs, the Oryon, is the company's most advanced, high-performance chipset to date. This chip will provide the compute power for the Snapdragon X Elite platform. The Arm-based processor was built by the Nuvia team that Qualcomm acquired for $1.4 billion in 2021. Nuvia was founded by three former top Apple semiconductor executives who were part of the iPhone division. Their start-up made custom CPU cores for servers before the company was bought by Qualcomm.

Qualcomm has made a bold claim that its new Oryon CPU cores are better than Apple's M2 Max. According to the company, the Snapdragon X platform, powered by Oryon, scored 3227, compared to M2 Max's 2841, on the Geekbench index. The platform is also slightly faster than Intel's i9, per the same index.

"Their claims of being more powerful and having lower consumption than Apple's and Intel's best chips are a big deal. They will be competitive here," said Phil Solis, Research Director for Connectivity and Smartphone Semiconductors at research firm IDC.

"Pricing and customer willingness to pay for a laptop without an Intel or AMD processor will come into play" as the company keeps developing its brand, he added.

A look at the competitiors

Qualcomm's announcement comes at a time when rival chipmakers are preparing to unveil their own cutting-edge processors. Intel, for example, will start shipping its 'Meteor Lake' processors, the company's most advanced chipset yet, by the end of this year.

Reports have emerged that Intel has already started attaching its most powerful chips to client PCs, the 14th generation core Meteor Lake processors. In the company's Q3 earnings call, CEO Pat Gelsinger acknowledged that the chipmaker has been ramping up its "most productive fleet of EUV tools", the Intel 4, to make its advanced chipsets in two of its fabs – one located near Portland, Oregon, and another near Leixlip, Ireland. These two fab units can make sufficient Meteor Lake chips, the company claimed.

The Meteor Lake chipset is Intel's first multi-tile processor built for PCs. The company has claimed that these units can offer unprecedented level of performance efficiency and handle generative AI tasks. While Intel has not shared any benchmark metric on efficiency, the chipmaker did note that it has made its biggest architectural shift in four decades.

This is a much-needed change for the chipmaker as it seeks to regain its lost spot in the chip race. It is also important as Apple is disrupting the market with its own M-series chipsets. During the 'Scary Fast' event, scheduled for October 30, the iPhone maker is expected to launch its next generation chipset, the M3 for iMacs. Experts tracking the company have claimed this to be the star of the event.

Apart from Intel and Apple, Nvidia, the market leader for high-end AI chipsets, launched its super chip, the GH100, that can handle complex gen AI workloads. "Nvidia is coming out with their own Arm-based PC processors, and they will also have to take share from Intel and AMD on Windows," Mr. Solis noted. "Wider competition is with Apple and also Chromebooks."

Legal troubles

While the PC processor competition heats up with SnapdragonX in the race, Qualcomm has doubled down on its flagship smartphone chipset offering seamless connectivity feature, and audio capability. The company's latest launch, the Snapdragon 8 Gen 3, promises over 30% performance improvement.

The chip's expand capability can let users switch from Bluetooth to WiFi7 for extended range. This is "really convenient for when you are walking away from a device temporarily but still need to listen or talk," Mr. Solis noted.

Beyond the tech, Qualcomm has a pending legal dispute with Arm over Nuvia's licensing agreement with the U.K.-based chip-design firm. Arm has been asking Qualcomm to draw up a new agreement with it post the Nuvia acquisition as Nuvia's licensing agreement with Arm had a higher royalty than what Qualcomm pays Arm for using its template designs.

Arm, despite its grievance, is yet to move the court on what it claims to be unlicensed use of its IP and confidential information by Qualcomm. It is unclear which way this dispute will go as the licence deal between Qualcomm and Arm is still solid.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Today marks the 94th death anniversary of Norman Pritchard, India's first Olympic medallist (in 1900). Here's a quiz on famous Indians of foreign descent

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

A talented actor, who was trained at FTII, he played several key roles in iconic films. One of them was Captain Weston in Satyajit Ray's *Shatranj ke khiladi*, a British officer who is fluent in Urdu poetry. Name him.

QUESTION 2

Born in Minneapolis in the U.S, she visited India as a researcher in the 1970s and went on to stay in Maharashtra and became an Indian citizen in 1983. She was a prolific researcher, academic and activist in the anti-caste movement. Name her.

QUESTION 3

As a member of the National Advisory Council during the United Progressive Alliance's first term, this economist was a proponent of a national rural employment guarantee scheme, and later made key contributions to the draft Act that led to the MGNREGS. Name this Belgian-born economist.

QUESTION 4

An accomplished anthropologist and ethnologist, this British-born person first visited India as a missionary. He became an authority on Indian tribal culture, took up Indian citizenship and was an Union government adviser on tribal affairs for the northeast in post-Independence India. Name him.

QUESTION 5

A science-populariser and scientist with an astounding range of work in physiology, genetics, evolutionary biology and mathematics, this professed socialist was born in Oxford but became an Indian citizen in 1961 and worked at the Indian Statistical Institute. Name him.

Visual Question:
Name this prominent herpetologist based in Chennai.
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the October 27 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The name by which polio was initially known. **Ans: Infantile Paralysis**
2. The U.S. President who caught polio when he was 39. **Ans: Franklin D. Roosevelt**
3. The person who developed the oral polio vaccine. **Ans: Albert Sabin**
4. Who holds the patent for the polio vaccine. **Ans: No one. Jonas Salk once famously said when asked who owned the patent: "Well, the people, I would say. There is no patent. Could you patent the sun?"**
5. Apart from Amitabh Bachhan, who was the other brand ambassador for the polio vaccine. **Ans: Rajnikanth**
Visual: Identify this young girl. **Ans: The girl in the picture is Rukhshar Khatun from Howrah district, West Bengal. She is officially the last child to contract the disease in the country**
Early Birds: Sunil Kannada| Manasi Roy

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

He dabbled in poetry and drama

Let's toss around a few ideas among ourselves before selecting one for the team skit

S. Upendran

"Welcome back! How was your trip? I hope you managed to meet your friend, Khelkar, while you were there."

"Although the trip was pretty hectic, I managed to meet Khelkar. Went to his house for dinner, actually!"

"I remember. How is Khelkar doing? Does he still continue to paint?"

"No, he gave up painting a long time ago. I don't think he was ever serious about painting. He dabbled in it for a while, after college."

"What did you say?"

"Dabble! It rhymes with babble and scrabble. When you 'dabble in' an activity, you take some interest in it. The interest you show, however, is not very serious."

"In other words, you take part in an activity just for the fun of it."

"I guess you could say that! You are involved in the activity, but not totally committed to it. The other important thing about 'dabbling' is that the interest in the activity lasts for a very short period of time. Here's an example. *My father told me that when he was in college, he dabbled in politics*."

"Really? That's interesting."

"I'm told that our friend, Praveen, dabbled in drugs while he was in college."

"But he got his act together, very quickly. Tell me, how was yesterday's meeting? Did the people in your group come up with interesting ideas?"

"We came up with a lot of ideas, but I don't know if anyone would call them interesting, though. The four of us had a lot of fun tossing around ideas, and the..."

"Tossing around ideas? Doesn't 'toss' mean to throw something at someone? How can you throw an idea at someone?"

"The word 'toss' has several different meanings. One of them, as you have rightly pointed out, is to throw an object at or to someone. For example, *the bowler tossed the ball to the wicketkeeper*."

"As soon as I get home, I usually toss my wallet into the cupboard."

"I toss my keys into the cupboard. The word 'toss', however, has a figurative meaning as well. In informal contexts, the expression 'toss around' is frequently used to mean 'to discuss'. When you toss ideas around, you are discussing them with a group of people."

"In other words, the people are exchanging ideas and figuring out how good each one is."

"Well, I guess you could say that! Also, the discussion that takes place happens in an informal manner. *I think we have tossed around enough ideas for today.*"

"How about this example? *I have a few ideas about how we can improve efficiency in the workplace. I plan to toss them around in our next Department meeting.*"

"Sounds good! The Professor and the students have been tossing ideas around for making the annual play a roaring success."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Presentiment:
a feeling of evil to come

Synonyms: boding, premonition, foreboding

Usage: *The lawyer had a presentiment that the judge would dismiss the case.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/presentimentpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /prɪˈzɛn.tɪ.mənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Possession of tiger claw and other wildlife articles: What you need to know

Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 deems possessing animal articles a criminal offence. But what if it was inherited before the law came into effect? Can a wildlife artefact be gifted?

EXPLAINER

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

As he sported a tiger claw pendant during the Big Boss Kannada reality show, little would Varthur Santhosh have thought he was catching a tiger by the tail.

Following his arrest on October 22 for the possession of the pendant, Karnataka Forest Department officials also conducted raids at the residences of film actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, actor and Rajyasabha MP Jaggesh, actor-politician Nikhil Kumaraswamy, film producer Rockline Venkatesh and astrologer Vinay Guruji.

The articles in the possession of Darshan and Kumaraswamy were confirmed as fake by the officials, while that of Jaggesh has been sent for forensic analysis.

As per initial reports, Santhosh, a farmer, cattle breeder and bull race organiser, had purchased the claws about three years ago which were later fashioned into a pendant by a jewellery shop. Later he claimed that it was inherited from his ancestor and he was granted bail on October 27 by the 2nd Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate.

Meanwhile, Jaggesh claimed that his tiger claw pendant was a gift from his mother, and has now approached the High Court of Karnataka questioning the search in his house without giving him time to answer the notice served. Vinay Guruji insisted to the officials who raided his ashram near Koppe that the tiger skin rug he was clicked sitting on was an offering from a devotee to whom it was returned.

The arrest and the raids have stirred a hornet's nest, and several questions seem to be emerging from the din.

Under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, killing wild animals and selling or possessing animal articles such as their claws, skin or horns is a criminal offence. But what if it was inherited before the law came into effect? Can a wildlife artefact be gifted? What do you do if you come in possession of an artefact unintentionally?

(From left) Original tiger claws and the fake ones. WTI

What is the importance of ownership certificate under the law?

As per the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, wild animals are protected under various Schedules.

"Any artefact which is made with a part or a whole of a wild animal listed under the Wildlife Protection Act is an animal article or a trophy."

"The possession of any such thing needs an ownership certificate," explains Jose Louies, director & chief (wildlife crime control) at Wildlife Trust of India.

"Anybody who is in possession of these materials without an ownership certificate is violating the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act."

The ownership certificate, however, does not grant one absolute ownership of the artefact but only provides custodianship of the same.

What constitutes legal possession of a wildlife article?

As per the law, one can be in legal possession of a wildlife article-

1. If the person had custody of the article before the enactment of the law in 1972

2. If the person declared the article during the moratorium given by various State Governments after the enactment of the law.

3. If a person inherited the article from a blood relative or spouse.

In all three situations, ownership certificate is mandatory.

"These are the only three ways you can inherit or own a wildlife article in your possession. Anything other than these - even if somebody gifted it to you - is considered a violation," Mr. Louies says.

Is gifting wildlife articles with ownership certificates legal?

An ownership certificate doesn't give one the right to gift, buy or sell a wildlife article. Nor should a wildlife article be accepted as a gift or else the receiver would be in illegal possession of the same.

The term 'inheritance' also carries significance. "For example, a husband who has an article and an ownership certificate cannot gift it to his wife while he is alive, but she can inherit it after his death," explains Mr. Louies.

The ownership certificates are issued by the chief wildlife wardens of each state. Each article with a certificate is marked and has a serial number. The address of the location of the material is also recorded. The transportation of the same from one location to another also requires permission from the chief wildlife warden.

How serious a crime is illegal possession of wildlife article?

Possession of Schedule-1 animal articles is a non-bailable cognisable offence which means the violator can be arrested and bail can be given only by a magistrate. Animals such as tiger, blackbuck, brow-antlered deer, cheetah, golden langur, lion, lion-tailed macaque, Malabar civet, loris, and rhinoceros are among the 40+ mammals protected under Schedule 1. If one comes in possession of an artefact made of body parts of any such animal and does not have an ownership certificate, the law requires them to inform an authorised officer within 48 hours of possession.

If the illegal possession of a wildlife article is reported or noticed, an officer would examine the material. If the official is

The ownership certificate, however, does not grant one absolute ownership of the artefact

prima facie convinced that it is a wildlife article and not a fake, the violator would be arrested, and the material would be sent for forensic examination.

Is there a lack of awareness on the law?

On Thursday Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre announced the government's plan to provide a window for the public to return wildlife artefacts in their possession as a one-time measure. Mixed opinions seem to be emerging from wildlife experts regarding this.

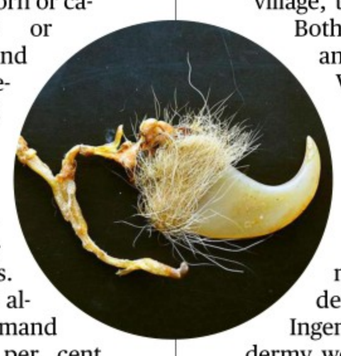
An ecologist who didn't want to be named noted that there is a lack of awareness among people, and, therefore, governments regularly bring out such schemes by which people can surrender items.

"Many a time people inherit such articles from their ancestors; There are even instances of people simply finding it in their attic or an old trunk and then don't know what to do with it. To address such situations this amnesty seems fair. But fresh pieces should not be palmed off as inherited heirlooms," they said.

Mr. Louies of WTI, however, noted that there are also several instances of artefacts being procured by the influential who are well aware of the law but disregard it to flaunt their clout and wealth. The demand is also driven by superstitions more than often.

"Most of the educated people in this country are aware that tiger is a protected animal, and the claw is not something you can keep," he says, adding that there is a huge demand for articles like tiger claw pendants in the jewellery circle.

"Ninety per cent of the artefacts would be fake. They fashion it out of a cow or buffalo horn or camel teeth or bone and carve it to resemble an animal claw or teeth. The Hakki Pikkis are experts in this. But there is always a demand and a 10 per cent probability that one may get an original," Mr. Louies notes.



Is there a demand for jewellery made out of body parts of animals?

Although a large majority of the available jewellery could be fake, it helps to keep the demand for wildlife artefacts high. Minister Khandre, while announcing the plans to provide a window to declare and return illegal possession of wildlife articles, appealed to the jewellers to refrain from entertaining requests to make jewellery out of wildlife articles and display a sign outside their shops that it was a "punishable offence."

This is not the first time senior officials have been making requests to the jewellers. In 2012 former principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF), wildlife B.K. Singh, in a letter to jewellers association, mentioned the involvement of goldsmiths and jewellers in wildlife crimes and warned them to not get involved in the same.

In 2022, Vijay Kumar Gogi, former PCCF, wrote another similar letter to the association. Investigations are still on for the jewellers who made the pendant for Santhosh.

The Mysuru connection

Van Ingen & Van Ingen was a taxidermy company that operated out of Mysuru between 1900 and 1998. Although 'Ingen' signifies the name of a Dutch village, the brothers Botha, De Wet and Joubert Van Ingen who ran the company, were born in Mysuru. Known as master taxidermists, Van Ingen did taxidermy works for the Maharaja of Mysore and processed more than 400 tigers per year between the 1930s and 1960s.

"From the British era onwards, all the taxidermy that happened in the country was done in Mysuru as Van Ingen & Van Ingen were the most famous taxidermists. Given that and the hunting history of Coorg and Western Ghats, there is a probability of a lot of people in Karnataka having these kinds of artefacts in their homes. So, if they have it, they should check the ownership certificate," says Mr. Louies adding that all the ivory carvings and similar artefacts at display in the Jaganmohan palace and Mysore palace in Mysuru and other museums are recorded for and have ownership certificates.

Lack of awareness among people: Forest Minister

Reacting to criticisms that the government was being lenient by allowing a window for declaring and returning wildlife articles, Forest, Ecology, and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre told *The Hindu* that the proposal was considering the lack of awareness among people about the law.

"This is not the first time we are doing this. Earlier also, when the law was enacted and during the 2003 amendment, people were given six months' time to surrender such articles," Mr. Khandre said. "We as the government feel this is the right thing to do and I have spoken to the honourable Chief Minister also regarding this. There is a lack of awareness among people and a majority of the people don't know about the law or how stringent it is."

"So, we are exploring possibilities of giving some time to surrender these wildlife artefacts as a one-time measure. We want to announce a moratorium for two months. But it is still a proposal. We are writing to the legal department for their opinion and then will take a call," he said.

As measures to improve awareness among people, Mr. Khandre said that he has instructed the senior officers to start awareness programmes in all districts and make an action plan for the same. People would be educated through campaigns and social media, he said.

"I'm even talking to the education department and other departments regarding this issue. There's a need to include it in the school so youngsters learn about the law and its essence early on. We'll also take up anti-poaching camps to strengthen our officers," Mr. Khandre said.

The intermittent joy of the ill-roasted egg

When you fast for 16 hours out of 24, it does something to you. What you save on weight, you lose on temper, shouting at near and dear ones

ABOUT 500 WORDS

Suresh Menon

Many of my friends have taken to intermittent fasting (IF) as a way of a) living a fuller life b) losing weight c) showing how clever they are with their ability to spell 'intermittent' d) keeping up with the Joneses and Janeses e) saving on groceries.

Many IF (Intermittent Fasters) have asked me to join their movement. One of them even threw Shakespeare at me, quoting thus, "Truly, thou art damned like an ill-roasted egg, all on one side," whatever that means. If I don't fast intermittently, I will look like a badly roasted egg? I was sorely tempted to throw Kipling at him. You know where the poet says, "If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs... "

Benjamin Franklin is supposed to have said, "The best of all medicines are resting and fasting." I regularly observe intermittent resting (IR), doing no work for 16 hours and then sleeping for the other eight. It works for me. Franklin also said, "He that lives upon hope will die fasting," but that's for Intermittent Hopers (IH).

To each his own, but I wish IF wouldn't try to convert me, just like vegans try to (and fail). After all, I don't try to convert anyone to my system of not shaving in any week that has a Wednesday in it - I am sure I can find some plausible health reasons for this. At the very least it must be environmentally friendly or something.

When you fast for 16 hours out of 24, it does something to you. What you save on weight, you lose on temper, shouting at near and dear ones who eat like normal people. And when you have to pack three meals into eight hours, it means IF is usually followed by BE (binge eating) like in that famous line: If (this) be the food of love...

The argument is that this is how lions and tigers do it. Amazingly, the IF have not stumbled on the flaw in the argument: they are neither tigers nor lions. If they followed the example of these animals, they would have to eat jackals raw, without any sauce. And, if vegetarian, they would make a funny sight running after an innocent loaf of bread or a falling apple. I can't understand why intense hunger should make you feel virtuous, going by how some IF behave. "You know, I don't eat between 8 p.m. and twelve noon the following day," one of them, too weak to speak, wrote down on a piece of paper and waved it in front of my eyes.

Even on a scrawled piece of paper the self-righteousness and superiority came through. It was as if he was telling me that while he was saving the world, I was neither saving nor shaving, a double sin in his eyes.

Among people to avoid in this world are those who borrow your books and never return them, and intermittent fasters who are always thinking of food.

Meanwhile, I need a snack - its nearly two hours since I ate.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 31, 1973

More Bogus Marks Card Unearthed

Bangalore, Oct. 30: During the last three months, the State CID earthed 20 more cases of bogus marks cards, thus bringing the total to 85, the Inspector General of Police, Mr. C.V.S. Rao, said here to-day.

He told newsmen that a person who had secured a job as extension officer at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Hebbal, by forging his SSLC marks card, was recently arrested. The accused with the help of the bogus marks card had applied to the Public Service Commission for the post of block development officer and was even selected. He was undergoing training at the time of arrest.

The CID seized counterfeit currencies. of Rs,. 100 and Rs. 20 denominations following the arrest of two persons at Raichur last week.

A dismissed salesman of Bangalore Dairy who was cheating customers by collecting dues from several customers was recently apprehended by the CID in the city.

A well-known confidence trickster, who had been eluding the police, was held by the CID at Bangalore recently.

Gilded with gold: Where India's miniature painting schools converge

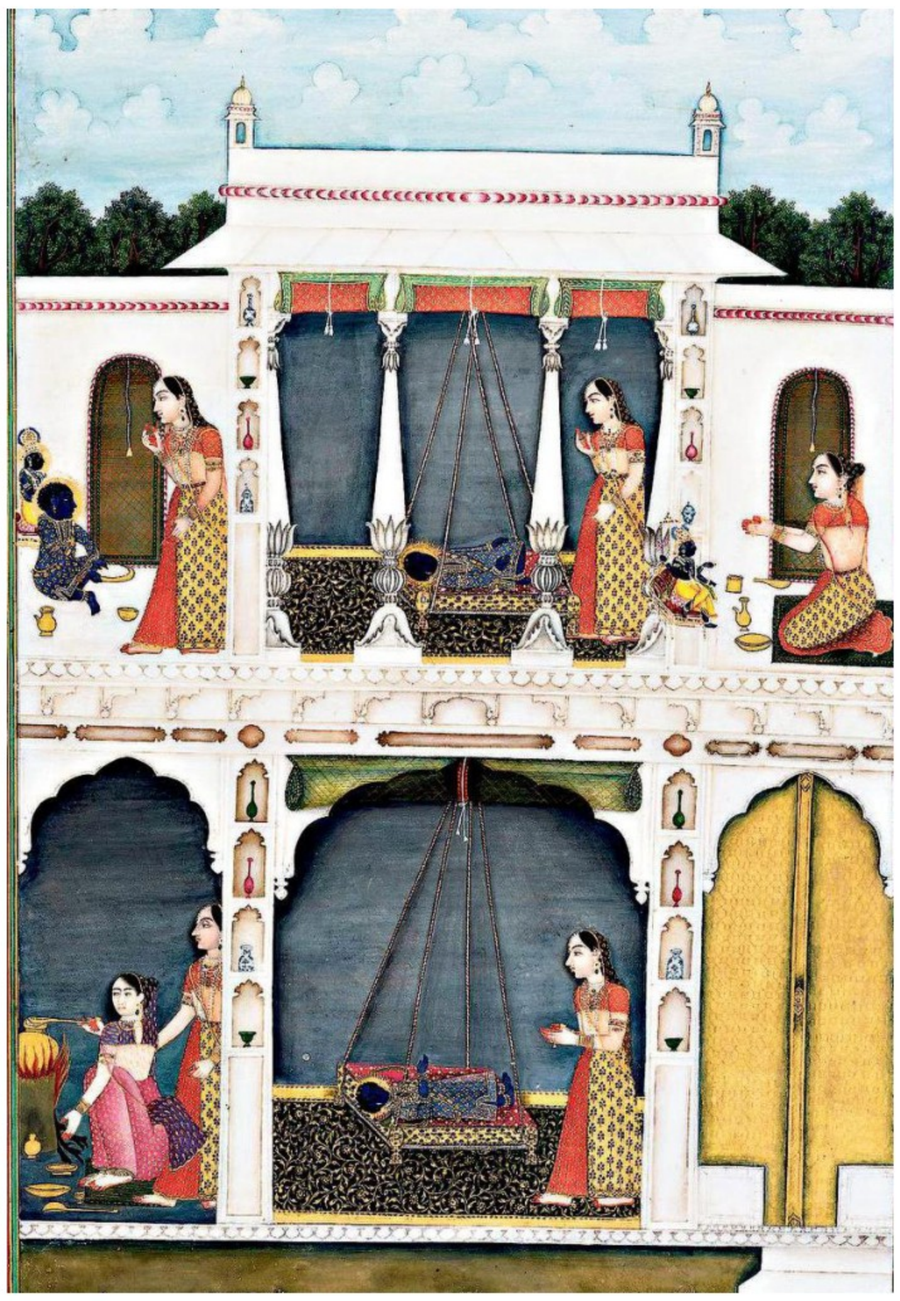
An exhibition of rare and opulent folios from the manuscript narrating Tulsidas' *Ramcharitmanas* is on display at the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) in Bengaluru.

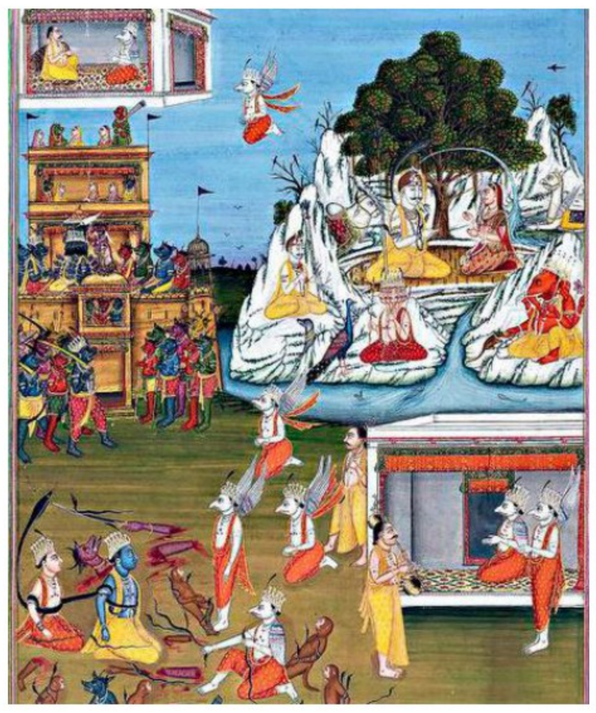
Shailaja Tripathi

In the 18th century, the then king of Benaras, Udit Narayan Singh, embarked on an ambitious project – Kanchan Chitra Ramayana, a magnificent Ramayana manuscript that was laden with gold. In the 21st century, the Kanchan Chitra Ramayana, based on Tulsidas' *Ramcharitmanas*, stands as a testament to the grandeur of India's artistic heritage. What sets this manuscript apart is not only its opulence, with its pages laden with gold, but also the convergence of diverse schools of miniature painting within its exquisite pages.

Perhaps, for the first time ever, people are getting to view some of those pages at an exhibition organised by the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) in Bengaluru. While the manuscript had 1100 folios, at the show are 80 folios, some of which belong to different private collections.

While the context of the upcoming Ram Temple in Ayodhya and the years of conflict that preceded it – one viewer at the show was actually looking for Babri Masjid in the painted folios – makes the exhibition more appealing, even without the political overtones, it's an overwhelming show that needs to be seen.





All that glitters Folios from the Kanchan Chitra Ramayana. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The folios painted in different miniature styles of Delhi, Jaipur, Awadh, Murshidabad, and Datia are teeming with figures in action, rich flora and fauna, and exquisite architecture that has been rendered in such fine detail.

The image on the folio depicting the gathering of astrologers to choose the day for Rama and Sita's wedding is quite interesting. Ram's father, Raja Dasrath, is deciding the time with the help of eminent priests, sages, and noblemen. Narada Muni, who was sent by Brahma to Earth to inform Dasrath of the auspicious date, is portrayed in many stages, including his arrival, his crossing of a river in Janakpur, and his subsequent seating among the assembly to discuss the date. The minutest of details are given attention by the artists from Awadh.

According to Parul Singh, who has co-curated the exhibition with the late Kavita Singh, Udit Narayan Singh persuaded painters from various North Indian miniature traditions to congregate in Benaras, engage in conversation with Ramayani scholars, and respond to it in their artwork.

"The project was so enormous that artists had to be called from different parts following different styles, like the reign of Pratap Singh of Jaipur, Delhi style, Datia style. The artists had to work closely with Ramayani scholars because every text page is accompanied by a painting. It's a possibility that some of the painters might have been illiterate," remarks the art historian, who specialises in premodern visual and material culture with a focus on South Asian art.

Udit Narayan Singh was a pious king who promoted art and culture, but those weren't the only reasons for producing the Golden Illustrated Ramayana. Parul Singh says, "He also got political dividends out of it. His subjects took notice of him. Ramnagar became a pilgrimage centre. While his father, Mahip Narayan Singh, started the famous Ramnagar ki Ramlila, it was Udit Narayan Singh who turned it into a grand spectacle."

It's interesting to note that the setting of Ayodha shifts to Benaras in the paintings, which reflects in its architecture, upholstery, terrain, landscape and textiles. "The raja was a Shiv Bhakt and he built not just Shiva but also Ram temples. *Ramcharimanas* had suddenly become very popular in the 18th century, and it was because of the Ramanandi sect. But it appealed to a cross-section of the people, irrespective of caste and gender, in North India," says the Delhi-based curator.

There is indeed a colophon that alludes to a possible Ramanandi gathering in which Tulsidas is reciting *Ramcharitmas* to a diverse crowd that includes Vaishnavites, Shaiviites, a Muslim man, and women. Ramanandi is a Hindu sect that was founded by saint Ramananda, a believer in Rama, Sita and Hanuman, in the 14th century. As saint Ramanandi was against caste, community, creed and religion, the sect is inclusive.

> The project was so enormous that artists had to be called from different parts following different styles like the Delhi and Datia styles.
>
> **PARUL SINGH**
> Co-curator of the show

In the show, different scenes from Tulsidas' *Ramcharitmanas*, which is a retelling of Valmiki's Ramayana, play out major events from Rama's life.

The Rama-Ravan battle is depicted in the folio that artists of Jaipur with the help of Datia painters created showing Rama's army besieging Lanka. Shiva and Parvati are pictured in the bottom-left corner. Opposite them, Rama can be seen strategising with his advisors while being encircled by an army of monkeys and bears. The folio's centre is a battlefield where armies of monkeys, bears, and demons charge at one another.

Parul notes that artists from different workshops employ typical techniques of their school, which distinguishes one style from another.

"You find different group of artists responding to Ramayani scholars. You have Mughal artists using one hair brush to depict the intricate ornamentation and detailing of the palace but they miss out on certain crucial points. For instance, a folio is about a mark that you can see on the moon. When you see the moon, you feel it has been squeezed in as an afterthought."

A few folios also feature Kaka Bhusundi, the crow sage, who plays a crucial role in *Ramacharitamanas*' Uttara kand.

The folios would have stayed in the private collection of the Benaras royal family, but over the past four years, they were disseminated around the art market and into the public domain. It's interesting to see that Udit Narayan's name and seal have been removed to obscure the source of the artwork. "Maybe the collector/seller didn't want others to know that this was coming from Benaras. A lot of the property was under litigation," says Singh.

The manuscript which was made over a period of 18 years (1796-1844) by hundreds of artists, is layered with meanings and contexts. Interactive elements, a holographic experience of the Kanchana Chitra Ramayana and an installation giving a glimpse of Ramnagar's Ramlila make it extremely engaging.

The show is on at MAP, Bengaluru, till March 8, 2024. Tickets are priced at Rs. 50 onwards)

Catch Nikhil D'Souza live

Music enthusiasts in Bengaluru are in for a treat as the Hindi film playback singer, Nikhil D'Souza, is set to perform at Phoenix Market City on November 4.

Nikhil's name is synonymous with catchy Hindi film songs, including 'Anjaana Anjaani' (the title track of the film), 'O Gujaria', 'Mere Bina', 'Har Kisi Ko', 'Jannatein Kahan Power Ballad', 'Sang Hoon Tere', 'Alvida', 'You Are So Beautiful', and many more. His melodious voice and the ability to convey deep emotions through his singing have endeared him to a global audience.

Nikhil, a Mumbai native, initially pursued a Geology degree at St. Xavier's College. However, his journey took a musical turn after an encounter with a friend. His musical style can be characterised as an eclectic blend of acoustic guitar-based pop. He infuses his songs with rich melodic qualities achieved through the use of alternative tunings. His primary musical influences include Sting and Buckley.

Nikhil is not just a playback singer; he is also into independent music. His independent release, 'Sitaare' is a hit among indie music listeners. Moreover, his vocal prowess is reflected in the popularity of 'Vaaste' which has a whopping 1.5 billion views on YouTube in India.

The live performance promises an musical experience, filled with heart-touching lyrics and soulful melodies.

Tickets on bookmyshow.com.

Classic village drama with a few laughs

FILM REEVIEW

Vivek MV

Debutant Umesh K Krupa's *Tagaru Palya* begins with Pandappa (Rangayana Raghu) inviting the village community for a feast. He is thrilled to have found a groom for his daughter Jyothi (Amrutha Prem) and to celebrate the outcome, Pandappa sets out to sacrifice a male sheep, a promise he made to the local deity long back.

The sacrificial ritual is scheduled around the deity next to a scenic waterfall. The backdrop establishes the film's genre right away. But, when you witness characters talking to each other in a loud and identical tone, you are left agitated by the stereotypical portrayal of villagers. It is the first sign of things to come in *Tagaru Palya*.

The film's incidents happen in one day (sunrise to sunset). The drama kicks in when the sacrificial sheep refuses to cooperate, while Jyothi's mother (Tara Anuradha) learns that her daughter has decided to elope with her lover.

All smiles Tara, Amrutha Prem and Rangayana Raghu in a still from the film. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The film's limited location and timeline promise exciting possibilities, but they aren't devoid of challenges which the writer and filmmaker Umesh K Krupa fails to overcome.

Tagaru Palya has an array of characters meant to evoke humour. But be it the priest, chef, whiney senior citizen (Vaijanath Biradar), and drunkard, none of them are quirky enough to make us laugh out loud. These characters mouth loud dialogues and resort to repetitive mannerisms, and when these ploys fail to click, the director makes them hurl cuss words to force comedy into the proceedings.

Nagabhushana, who portrays an innocent, hard-working man and Tara stand out amidst the chaos. Their performances show that rural characters can strike a chord by being subtle and natural. Director Umesh worked as an assistant to Yogaraj Bhat, who nailed the authentic dialect, wrote characters that suited the backdrop and reflected realities without compromising with entertainment in village dramas such as *Drama* and *Dana Kayonu*. That level of detailing is missing in *Tagaru Palya*.

After establishing the crux of the story, it's apparent that the director is clueless about fleshing out his core idea, as the film feels like a drag with redundant scenes.

A realistic backdrop cannot shield cinematic contrivances. The director's black-and-white perception of villagers and city-born people is bothersome as well. The film represents villagers as either naïve or short-tempered. The Bengaluru-born IT professional (Vasuki Vaibhav in a very unfunny performance), the groom to marry Jyothi, is shown as an exotic fool, uninformed about the simple things in life.

Tagaru Palya is watchable when it doesn't take itself seriously. Whenever the film enters the message-heavy zone, it becomes preachy as we see characters giving us lessons on relationships and the beauty of village life. So, what's that one new thing we learned from *Tagaru Palya*? Does it offer anything different from the daily soap operas? Your guess is as good as mine.

The sheer lack of personality in the central characters weighs the film down. Why not show Jyothi, the young girl, as brave enough to take a call on her life partner right in the beginning? Why conveniently wait till the end to reveal this sensible side of hers?

The film's commentary on the have-nots from villages forced to move to cities is relatable. The problem lies in the fact that it romanticises the struggles of village life and overlooks the underlying issues in the relationship dynamics of rural people. At the same time, it judges people from cities as cunning and greedy, and they don't receive a single redeeming factor. This myopic vision from the filmmaker wrecks the film's premise.

Tagaru Palya is produced by actor Dhananjaya under his banner, Daali Pictures. The banner has come to be known for promoting debutant filmmakers. While that's appreciable, it would need better scrutiny of scripts from Dhananjaya for his production house to offer films that stand the test of time.

Tagaru Palya is currently running in theatres.

Tagaru Palya (Kannada)

Director: Umesh K Krupa
Cast: Nagabhushana, Rangayana Raghu, Tara Anuradha, Amrutha Prem
Runtime: 130 minutes
Storyline: Pandappa from a remote village finds a match for his daughter. He decides to sacrifice a male sheep to celebrate the development. Things turn chaotic when the sheep refuses to cooperate

Enraged by teaching of group, says suspect

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Dominic Martin from Thammanam in Kochi, who surrendered before the Kodakara police in the afternoon and confessed that he planted the explosives at a meeting of Jehovah's Witnesses at a convention centre in Kalamassery, near here, on Sunday morning, had in a social media post narrated the "reasons" for his act.

Prior to the surrender, he said he was enraged at the 'teachings' of the Jehovah's Witnesses that degraded members of other beliefs. "I needed to 'react' since I found that such teachings were a danger to society. Sadly, political parties are scared of religions and at least one person had to react against such teachings," Mr. Martin said. He said he did not want to share the formula of assembling the explosives, in public interest.

Six exits enabled fast evacuation

There has not been any need to deploy security guards or seek police protection, say members of Jehovah's Witnesses; twice a day, organisers had been announcing that there were six exit doors that can be used in case of any emergencies

John L. Paul
KOCHI

Organisers of the three-day annual zonal meeting of Jehovah's Witnesses at a convention centre at Kalamassery, which was rocked by an explosion on Sunday, used to make announcements twice daily about six main exit doors at the venue that could be used in case of any untoward incident, members of the denomination said.

Two women died and many people suffered severe burns in the incident.

The announcements to over 2,000 people who gathered there were made during morning and afternoon on each day of the three-day zonal meet that was set to conclude on Sunday, said Roby Thomas from Varapuzha, one among the 'elders' of the congregation. "This is a standard practice that was being adopted through the years, even as there was no specific warning, suspicious activity or threats to such meetings so far. There was no security threat, so there was no need to deploy security guards or seek police protection. Adequate number of volunteers had been deployed to ensure safety of the premises and streamline parking."

People standing outside the Zamra International Convention and Exhibition Centre where multiple blasts occurred during a religious gathering of Jehovah's Witnesses, near Kochi on Sunday. REUTERS

They bore badges displaying the year's central theme, *Kshamayode Katthirikkuka* (Wait with Patience).

"This is an exhortation to practice patience in one's day-to-day life. I was engaged in helping arrange seats when there were three blasts, followed by fire," he added.

Ordeal recounted

Santamma, a member from Aluva, said the explosions rocked the centre of the hall as soon as she was walking towards the exit with her grandchild who was crying. "I turned back and saw the centre of the hall in flames." Another member, Edward, spoke of how his daughter, who was in the hall, recounted the multiple explosions that were followed by thick smoke. Over 30 people were taken to hospital, mostly with burns.

Another volunteer, James, from the congregation's Thrikkakara branch, said the repeated announcements about exit points helped many people leave the hall without much of a commotion.

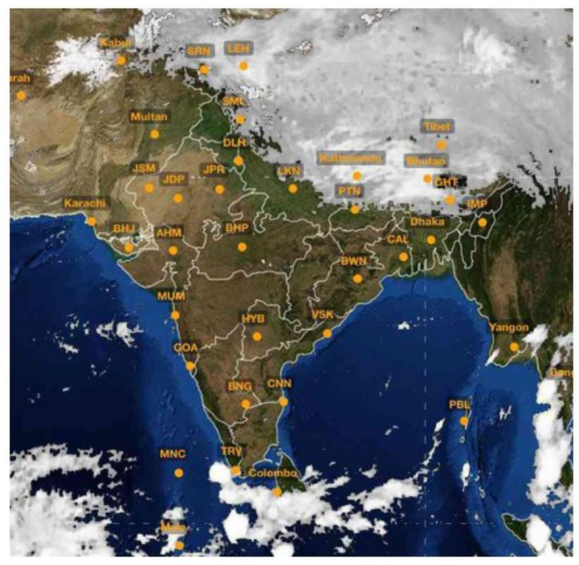
With the police sealing the compound, bags and other belongings of most people were secured within the hall for inspection.

V.V. Michael from Thrikkakkara said the congregation had over 4,000 members in Ernakulam district alone, spread across 20 branches.

A team led by Thrikkakara ACP is conducting the probe into the blast.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Kerala, Mahe, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Karaikal. Thunderstorms with lightning/gusty winds are likely at isolated places in Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.0	21.0	Kozhikode	—	33.0	26.0
Ahmedabad	—	37.0	19.0	Kurnool	—	34.0	24.0
Aizawl	—	25.0	13.0	Lucknow	—	33.0	18.0
Allahabad	—	33.0	16.0	Madurai	—	32.0	24.0
Bengaluru	—	29.0	21.0	Mangaluru	32.0	33.0	23.0
Bhopal	—	32.0	15.0	Mumbai	—	35.0	23.0
Bhubaneswar	—	31.0	20.0	Mysuru	—	33.0	22.0
Chandigarh	—	31.0	16.0	New Delhi	—	33.0	16.0
Chennai	0.5	32.0	26.0	Patna	—	33.0	19.0
Coimbatore	—	33.0	24.0	Port Blair	—	32.0	25.0
Dehradun	—	30.0	13.0	Puducherry	2.1	32.0	25.0
Gangtok	—	20.0	12.0	Pune	—	35.0	19.0
Goa	—	35.0	22.0	Raipur	—	31.0	16.0
Guwahati	—	32.0	20.0	Ranchi	—	30.0	16.0
Hubballi	—	31.0	22.0	Shillong	0.5	24.0	11.0
Hyderabad	—	32.0	22.0	Shimla	—	24.0	11.0
Imphal	—	28.0	15.0	Srinagar	—	22.0	4.0
Jaipur	—	35.0	22.0	Thiruvananthapuram	6.0	31.0	24.0
Kochi	—	30.0	26.0	Tiruchi	3.0	31.0	25.0
Kohima	—	22.0	12.0	Vijayawada	—	33.0	26.0
Kolkata	—	31.0	22.0	Visakhapatnam	—	33.0	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	...6	3	23	... 160	...142	
Bengaluru	.26	..45	52	..... —	76	
Chennai	...5	117	25	 20	35	
Delhi	.25	..32	54	... 382	...400	
Hyderabad	...6	3	23	... 160	...142	
Kolkata	.50	..65	29	... 223	...140	
Lucknow	.13	..46	21	... 272	...203	
Mumbai	...9	..53	54	... 181	...156	
Pune	..—	..22	38	... 259	...161	
Visakhapatnam	...8	..27	38	... 189	...135	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hanumangarh, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 369 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 31.

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Jehovah's Witnesses: Christian group with no-war stand

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Jehovah's Witnesses is a millenarian Christian group, which does not believe in Christian Trinity but believes in Jesus as son of God and Jehovah as God. They follow a literal interpretation of the Bible, have no priests, and do not approve of traditional priesthood as it is practised in some of the other Christian groups.

Several Christian denominations do not consider the Witnesses a Christian sect at all but feel that they are aligned closer to the Jewish faith.

Nazi persecution

In fact, Jehovah's Witnesses came under severe persecution under the Nazis in Germany along with the Jews as well as several ethnic groups.

The Witnesses stand out with what may be described as exceptionalism as they do not join national Armies as soldiers as they want to stick to a neutral stand when it comes to wars between countries, do not seek public offices or join politics, do not accept blood transfusion, and refuse to adhere to symbols of nationalism.

The Witnesses believe that Armageddon is imminent and early establishment of God's kingdom is a pressing requirement.

In 1985, three children belonging to a family of Jehovah's Witnesses refused to sing the National Anthem in Kerala. The children were expelled from school. The matter was dragged to a court of law and was settled through a Supreme Court verdict that allowed the children to be readmitted to school.

240 countries

Jehovah's Witnesses is spread over around 240 countries, said a leader of the group in Kochi. There are around 4,000 members of the group in the Kochi area, according to a local elder of the group.

The Witnesses has its early roots in a Bible study group founded in the last decades of the 18th Century by Charles Taze Russel, a Unitarian pastor from Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania.

But a schism in the Bible study group after his death resulted in the formation of several groups, including the Witnesses, in the early 1930s.

For an inclusive classroom

How can educational institutions eliminate implicit bias in classrooms and realise the goal of educational equity?

Anup Tripathi
Moitrayee Das

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Teachers exert a great influence on student learning outcomes. However, recently, several reports have shed light on the systemic exclusion of students by them, apart from the other forms of bias inside classrooms. Implicit bias is defined as "the stereotypes and attitudes that occur unconsciously and may or may not reflect our actual attitudes" (Gullo, Capatosto, and Staats, 2019). Implicit bias reflects, reinforces, and co-creates structural exclusion and othering. Practised by educators, this can severely affect the experiences of students in the classroom and at later stages of their lives as well.

The pernicious effects of bias are thoroughly researched and documented in several domains of public life, including but not limited to the workplace, healthcare, the criminal justice system, and educational institutions (Staats, Capatosto, Tenney, and Mamo, 2017). It affects all forms of behaviour inside and outside the classroom, making it extremely important for teachers to understand and acknowledge their bias toward the students. In the Indian context, bias practiced against students on the basis of their caste, gender, ethnic, and religious identities leads to discrimination that affects not just learning outcomes but also overall well-being.

Pedagogic thinker Paulo Freire has critiqued the mainstream idea of classroom education, which he calls the 'banking' concept of education. He equated teachers with bank clerks and saw them as 'depositing' information into students rather than drawing out knowledge from individual students or creating inquisitive beings with a thirst for knowledge. Several other scholars and critical thinkers have emphasised the need for 'awareness', 'curiosity', and 'questioning', for a growth mindset and overall development.

Classroom dynamics

However, inside classrooms where power dynamics exist, with teachers playing the dominant role and students expected to be passive listeners, such a vision of education does not get implemented. In fact, students are often punished for questioning teachers because it is perceived as undermining their authority. To make matters worse, teachers are seen outright discriminating against students on the basis of their gender, religion, ethnicity, class, caste, and neurodivergence. Such forms of implicit bias in the classrooms exclude students belonging to marginalised communities. In this regard, philosopher Bertrand Russell's views are important: "No man can be a good teacher unless he has a feeling of warm affection towards his pupils and a genuine desire to impart to them what he himself believes to be of value."

According to philosopher J. Krishnamurti, the goal of education is to foster healthy relationships not only between people but also between people and society. This is possible only through educational equity. It is crucial that the implicit bias in classrooms be eliminated to realise the goal of educational equity. According to the UNESCO, friendly classrooms can serve as a powerful weapon to reduce stigma and discrimination. Further, an inclusive classroom allows students to learn and grow together in a friendly environment where everyone feels included and supported, no matter their differences or abilities. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to address and reduce implicit bias in schools.

Need for training

Educators must be made to understand their role in the process and how these behaviours and attitudes lead to the use of exclusionary practices. Training and professional development programmes will help professionals understand and emphasise their unconscious attitudes and beliefs and the ways in which this influences their interactions with young children. The right form of training will help the stakeholders unlearn their biases and acquire the necessary skills to challenge their problematic behaviours.

Finally, policy development and enforcement that ensure reformative action will be crucial to bring about necessary changes in the educational system (implicit and explicit) in the long run. A concrete institutional structure needs to be put in place to implement practices designed to eliminate exclusionary discipline practices in early and late childhood education in schools and colleges.

Anup Tripathi is Assistant Professor of Sociology and Moitrayee Das is Assistant Professor of Psychology at FLAME University, Pune.

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Principal Prof. Sowmya Erappa K. receiving **National Award for Best NSS Unit.**

Physical Education Director Dr. Raghavendra R. receiving **National Award for Best NSS Program Officer.**

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President

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Honorary General Secretary

Time and change

Panel should be given more time to study new criminal laws

A parliamentary committee appears to be quite close to finalising its report on the three Bills seeking to replace the existing criminal laws. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has postponed the adoption of the draft report, following demands from Opposition members that they be given more time to study it. The report is said to have at least three dissenting notes, mainly pertaining to the text of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which will replace the Indian Penal Code and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, which will come in the place of the Code of Criminal Procedure. There appears to be unanimity on the third Bill, the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, the one in lieu of the Indian Evidence Act. Having begun its deliberations only on August 24, and having held only 12 sittings, there may be questions about the adequacy of the scrutiny. The whole point of introducing these new criminal codes was to bring about a major overhaul of a body of law deemed to be too colonial in orientation. Any meaningful study of these Bills ought to have involved wide consultations among stakeholders across the country. Ideally, the panel should hold sittings across the country and listen to lawyers and activists on the details of the various sections, besides members of the subordinate judiciary who actually work the law and procedure laid down in the codes.

The demand for more time to examine the report has emerged because the draft report was said to have been circulated in English only days before it was scheduled to be adopted, and that the Hindi version was made available only on the eve of the sitting. The panel's next meeting is scheduled for November 6. It would be unwise to treat the current deferment as nothing more than a brief interlude to give more time to panel members to study the draft report. Rather, it should be seen as an opportunity to extend the time given to the committee by a few more months. The government seems to be keen on getting the Bills introduced in Parliament and passed during the winter session. There is no reason for such haste. It might be argued that considerable sections of the new laws are mere reproductions of the old Codes and that one study by the Standing Committee may be enough before they are introduced in the legislature. However, there are areas that may require deeper scrutiny: for instance, the scope for misuse, if any, in the new definitions, the desirability of introducing new offences such as 'hate speech' and whether there is further scope for procedural reform in the criminal justice system.

Farce of law

The ED has failed to demonstrate its impartiality in its probes

Searches at the premises of Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra, a sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) and a party candidate from Lacchmangarh in Sikar in the Assembly polls in November, and that of independent MLA Om Prakash Hudla, who has been fielded this time by the Congress from Mahua, have turned the spotlight yet again on the Enforcement Directorate (ED), a central agency that stands accused of selective targeting of Opposition leaders. The ED's money-laundering investigation is based on the cases instituted by the Rajasthan police to probe the alleged leak of the general knowledge paper of the Senior Teacher Grade II Competitive Examination (2022), which was cancelled and rescheduled by the Rajasthan Public Service Commission. The ED has also summoned Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son Vaibhav Gehlot in an alleged foreign exchange violation case. In Rajasthan, incumbent governments usually get voted out, but Mr. Gehlot has effectively challenged that perception this time with a slew of new welfare schemes and the accompanying publicity blitzkrieg. Factionalism in the Congress has been contained, and Mr. Gehlot and party colleague Sachin Pilot are united. On the other hand, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is dealing with increasing friction within its ranks. The Congress has termed the ED's action in the election-bound State as a sign of the BJP's frustration.

The BJP's claim that all ED actions are purely to root out corruption could have been taken at face value only if they were even-handed and impartial. The pattern of action and inaction by the ED leaves no scope for any such inference. The ED's enthusiasm in pursuing political corruption fluctuates. It is also too much of a coincidence that the ED suspects corruption only in Opposition-ruled States and among leaders opposed to the BJP. Few would accept an argument, if at all the BJP or the ED is making one, that there is no corruption in States ruled by the party or by its leaders. The BJP has been the only beneficiary of large-scale defections of elected representatives in recent years. No one can argue that agencies should not do their job and enforce the law. But both governance and democracy are undermined when the rule of law is weaponised against political opponents, When action against political players is taken in the midst of an election, it could potentially tilt the scales. The current legal regime for fighting corruption – and also the one against terrorism for that matter – is fast degenerating into an arbitrary internment of those who are inconvenient for the ruling party. This needs to end.

A war where humanity is on trial now

Sonia Gandhi

is Chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party

On October 7, 2023, on the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, Hamas launched a brutal attack on Israel, killing more than a thousand people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping over 200 more. The unprecedented attack was devastating for Israel. The Indian National Congress strongly believes that violence has no place in a decent world, and the very next day unequivocally condemned Hamas's attacks.

This tragedy is, however, being compounded by the Israeli military's indiscriminate operations in and around Gaza that have led to thousands of deaths, including large numbers of innocent children, women and men. The power of the Israeli state is now focused on exacting revenge from a population that is largely as helpless as it is blameless. The destructive might of one of the world's most potent military arsenals is being unleashed upon children, women and men who have no part in the Hamas assault; they, instead, for the most part, have been at the heart of decades of discrimination and suffering.

Indiscriminate destruction

In this war, as it is now described, entire families have been wiped out and neighbourhoods have been reduced to rubble. Medical facilities are unable to cope with the vast humanitarian crisis that has befallen the population. The denial of water, food and electricity is no less than the collective punishment of the Palestinian people. The outside world, particularly those who want to help, is largely blocked out of Gaza, with relief and aid reaching the needy in a trickle, and not on the scale that is necessary. Not only is it inhumane but it is also illegal in international law. Very few Gazans are untouched by the violence. Bottled up on a small, over-densely populated strip of territory, they have nothing to fall back upon. And now, even the occupied West Bank has flared up and the conflict is widening.

The prospects for the future are ominous. Senior Israeli officials have spoken of destroying and depopulating large parts of Gaza. The Israeli Defence Minister has referred to Palestinians as "human animals". This dehumanising language is shocking coming from the descendants of those who themselves were the victims of the Holocaust.

> The world was diminished by the brutal attacks on Israel; the world stands diminished again by Israel's disproportionate and equally brutal response

Humanity is on trial now. We were collectively diminished by the brutal attacks on Israel. We are now all diminished by Israel's disproportionate and equally brutal response. How many more lives will have to be taken before our collective conscience is stirred and awakened?

The Israeli government is making a grievous error in equating the actions of Hamas with the Palestinian people. In its determination to destroy Hamas, it has unleashed indiscriminate death and destruction against the ordinary people of Gaza. Even if the long history of the suffering of the Palestinians is ignored, by what logic can a whole population be held responsible for the actions of a few?

It bears constant repeating that the complex problems faced by Palestinians – problems that are rooted in a troubled imperial history orchestrated by outside powers – can only be solved through dialogue. It bears constant repeating, too, that this dialogue must accommodate the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians, including that of a sovereign state, that have been denied to them for decades, while at the same time ensuring the security of Israel.

The Congress's stand

There can be no peace without justice. Israel's unremitting blockade for over a decade and a half has reduced Gaza to an "open-air prison" for its two million inhabitants packed into dense cities and refugee camps. In Jerusalem and the West Bank, Israeli settlers backed by the Israeli state have continued to push out Palestinians from their own land in a seeming effort to destroy the vision of a two-state solution. Peace will come only if the world, led by countries that have the ability to influence policies and events, can restart the process of restoring the two-state vision and make it a reality.

The Indian National Congress has been consistent over the years in its strong belief that both the Palestinians and Israelis have the right to live in a just peace. We value our friendship with the people of Israel. But this does not mean that we erase from our memories, the painful history of forced dispossession of the Palestinians from what was their homeland for centuries, and of years of suppression of their basic right to a life of dignity and self-respect.

Contrary to some mischievous suggestions, the position of the Indian National Congress has been long standing and principled: it is to support direct negotiations for a sovereign independent, viable and secure state of Palestine coexisting in peace with Israel. This is also the stand taken by the Ministry of External Affairs on October 12, 2023. It is noteworthy that the reiteration of India's historic position on Palestine came only after Israel began its assault on Gaza. The Prime Minister had made no mention of Palestinian rights in the initial statement expressing complete solidarity with Israel. The Indian National Congress is strongly opposed to India's abstention on the recent United Nations General Assembly Resolution calling for an "immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities" between Israeli forces and Hamas in Gaza.

The world must act

There are voices on both sides speaking for an end to this madness. Many Israelis, having lost friends and family in the terror attacks, still believe that a dialogue with the Palestinians is the only way forward. Many Palestinians acknowledge that violence will only lead to more suffering and take them further away from their dream of a life of self-respect, equality and dignity.

It is unfortunate that many influential countries are being wholly partisan when they should be trying their utmost to end the war. The loudest and most powerful voices should be for a cessation of military activity. Otherwise, this cycle will continue and make it difficult for anyone in the region to live in peace for a long time to come.

Give up impropriety, demonstrate impartiality

Rangarajan R.

is a former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer. He currently trains civil service aspirants

'The order of this court has to be followed. I am concerned about the dignity of our court. If someone feels that this was a stricture passed by a local court against a government servant, they are mistaken.' These are the words of the Chief Justice of India, who felt despair over the inaction by the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker with respect to the disqualification petitions of its members that has been pending before him since July 2022. As the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha at the Centre and the Legislative Assembly in the States, the Speaker is required to act in an impartial manner. However, the functioning of this institution over the years in India has left much to be desired.

The office of the Speaker emerged in medieval Britain, when the House of Commons needed a spokesman in their dealings with the King. Until the 17th century, the Speaker was often seen as an agent of the Crown. However, since the middle of the 19th century, the Speaker has been considered to be an impartial Chairman of the House of Commons. They are the custodians of the rights and privileges of the House, its committees and its members.

Speaker conduct and gaps

Under the Indian Constitution, the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies elect two of its members to be the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, respectively. Apart from the traditional roles with respect to the conduct of business, the Speakers perform two important functions: of certifying a Bill to be a Money Bill (over which the Rajya Sabha/Legislative Council have a limited role), and deciding on disqualification under the Tenth Schedule for defection.

The Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly rules provide for suspension of members for misconduct in the House. It has been noticed that the Speakers and the Houses misuse these provisions more often than not against the Opposition members.

> The Speakers of the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies must carry out their functions in consonance with sound democratic practices

In a recent instance, the leader of the Congress party in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, was swiftly suspended for his remarks against the Prime Minister (which was later revoked), but no swift action has been forthcoming against a member of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Ramesh Bidhuri, for passing communal slurs against the Bahujan Samaj Party Member of Parliament, Danish Ali. There was also the case of the Maharashtra Assembly suspending 12 BJP MLAs unconstitutionally for a year in July 2021 that was later set aside by the Supreme Court of India.

The Speaker is the authority to refer Bills introduced to the Parliamentary Standing Committees. However, even significant Bills that require detailed scrutiny are not referred to such committees. As against more than 60% of Bills referred to committees in the Lok Sabha during 2004-14, less than 25% have been referred during 2014-2023. While such partisanship by Speakers affects robust parliamentary functioning, it is their role in deciding disqualification petitions that can derail the stability of elected governments.

The clairvoyance of French writer Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr who said 'the more things change, the more they stay the same' is hard to miss. It is a line that suits Indian politics even today, where our elected representatives find ingenious methods to circumvent the anti-defection law. The authority to decide on the disqualification of members under the Tenth Schedule is vested in the Speaker of the House. While he/she is expected to perform this constitutional role in a neutral manner, past instances have hardly inspired confidence, with the Speakers favouring the ruling dispensation.

The minority judges in *Kihoto Hollohan* (1992) were of the view that vesting the power to decide on defections with the Speaker violates the basic democratic principles. The Supreme Court in *Keisham Meghachandra Singh vs The Honble Speaker Manipur* (2020), recommended that Parliament amend the Constitution to vest these powers in an independent tribunal to be headed by judges. The present indictment of the Speaker of Maharashtra Assembly is also due to his continued inaction in deciding disqualification petitions for more than a year despite directions from the Court. Additionally, there have also been challenges in the Court in recent years against certification of certain Bills as a Money Bill by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Once a Speaker, always a Speaker

The adage 'what's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander' reflects the role that a Speaker is expected to play. In Britain, the Speaker once elected to his/her office, resigns from the political party to which he/she belonged. In subsequent elections to the House of Commons, he/she seeks election not as a member of any political party but as 'the Speaker seeking re-election'. This is to reflect his/her impartiality while presiding over the House. In the Indian Constitution, while the Tenth Schedule allows a Speaker (or Deputy Speaker) to resign from their political party on being elected to their office, it has been never done by any Speaker till date.

Considering that they are also constitutional functionaries who enjoy certain privileges, the higher judiciary is constrained 'to go thus far and no further', while dealing with the issues relating to Speakers. It is important that we adopt the practices as in Britain to instil confidence in the office of the Speaker. However, even till such time, it is imperative that Speakers eschew the 'impropriety' in their functioning and demonstrate 'impartiality'. It is time the Speakers take a 'vow' to display the latter in the discharge of their functions, in consonance with sound democratic practices.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Abstention at the UN

India has failed Palestine. India abstaining from voting on the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly calling for a "humanitarian truce and ceasefire in Gaza" shows that India too is behaving like the veto nations that are not in favour of peace prevailing and humanitarian efforts taking place on a war footing (Page 1, October 29). New Delhi should not lose sight of decades of Israeli atrocities in and illegal occupation of the Gaza Strip.

Prabhu Raj R.,
Bengaluru

Should India have abstained in the resolution proposed by Jordan when West Asia is increasingly being pounded by a bloody war? Has India missed the bus to be seen as a votary of peace when the world needs the right kind of stance from peace-loving nations the most?

Dr. George Jacob E.,
Kochi, Kerala

Indefensibly puerile. The construct and intent of the UN resolution was cast in a way not to pinpoint who the aggressor or the aggrieved was, but to condemn all acts of violence aimed at Palestinian and Israeli civilians.
That being so, to abstain from the vote on a resolution that called for a humanitarian truce, on the excuse that it failed to condemn the October 7 attack in Israel, carries little conviction from a country that gave the world the apostle of peace.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

The resolution was for the sake of saving lives. It was immaterial that it did not explicitly name and denounce Hamas as the cause of the crisis, as India desired. Didn't Prime Minister Narendra Modi tell Russia when it attacked Ukraine "... that today's era is not an era of war"?

Kamal Laddha,
Bengaluru

India's abstention is painful. Nothing can justify the suffering of civilians. India should have been compassionate enough to have voted in favour of the resolution.

Abdul Kader,
Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

India's abstention betrays its lack of statesmanship and mature diplomacy. The impending escalation of an Israeli ground-offensive would only worsen an already humongous humanitarian crisis. In such a grim situation, the "new India", which claims to be rising as an influential world leader, ought to have taken a firm stand.

S.K. Choudhury,
Bengaluru

Bangladesh's move

It is heartening that Bangladesh is to build a war memorial to honour the heroes of the 1971 war, though a good five decades plus after its liberation. One wishes that Bangladesh also installs a statue of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, without whose political intervention and military go-ahead Bangladesh would never have been able to pull off a victory against Pakistan.

Avinash Godboley,
Dewas, Madhya Pradesh

Salt intake

The use of salt — excess when compared to many other parts of the world — is the bane of the Indian way of cooking. India's love for spicy and pickled food has only compounded the problem ('Science' page, October 29). There should be a focused national campaign on the lines of the risks of tobacco use and the health message made clear.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

Stars of the World Cup

The Netherlands completing a stunning win over Bangladesh probably heralds a new era for the Dutch in cricket ('Sport' page, October 29). This World Cup will be remembered for the 'coming of age' of Afghanistan and the Netherlands. Both teams have played some superlative cricket and defeated their more fancied opponents.

Dr. Thomas Palocaren,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

Between neighbours

One is in agreement that good neighbourly relations in a multi-storey building are near futile ('Open' page, October 22). Near wars between various floors result over damaged water pipes and their delayed repairs, and even kitchen and drawing room noises.

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

An unfolding economic tragedy

Ashoka Mody

is Visiting Professor of International Economic Policy at Princeton University and the author of 'India is Broken: A People Betrayed, Independence to Today'

A reflexive cheer of India as the fastest-growing major economy rang out when the National Statistics Office (NSO) announced in late August that GDP had increased in the April-June quarter at an annual rate of 7.8%. The most euphoric cheerleaders predicted growth to accelerate to 8%. Even conservative forecasters routinely project GDP growth between 6% and 7%.

This GDP-centric framing of alleged Indian economic success is wrong-headed. GDP is a flawed metric of national economic welfare. It hides inequalities and deflects attention from acute job scarcity, poor education and health, unlivable cities, a broken judicial system, and environmental damage. Feverish celebrations of India's large but unequally distributed GDP hide the struggles of large numbers of people; large GDP is not purchasing power.

For India, 'fastest-growing' growing GDP should be a trivial achievement. Just as a 10-year-old child gains height more rapidly than a 20-year-old adult, India as the poorest of the major economies should grow fastest. Embarrassingly, it has failed to consistently do so. In fact, contrary to the hype, GDP growth has slowed sharply over the past two decades. The problem has been weak mass demand.

Pre-COVID and post-COVID

Indian GDP grew at an annual 9% rate in the mid-2000s as historically high world trade growth lifted all economies. A financial sector-real estate-construction bubble added froth to that growth. This was unsustainable. Growth slowed to 6% after the global financial crisis of 2007-08 as world trade decelerated quickly. By 2012-13, GDP growth had fallen to about 4.5%, but growth for that year and the next three jumped courtesy of a mysterious data revision in January 2015. Cleverly juggled statistics, however, could help only so much. The slowdown resumed after the demonetisation and botched GST rollout. And once the finance-real estate bubble collapsed following the IL&FS bankruptcy in August 2018, GDP growth came down to 3.9% in the year before the pandemic.

In fact, the pre-COVID growth was more dire than the publicised estimate implies. Indian statistical authorities present income from production as their measure of GDP. In principle, expenditure on Indian products (by national residents and foreigners) should equal income because producers earn incomes only when someone buys their wares. But expenditure grew at a mere 1.9% in the pre-COVID year.

When income and expenditure growth differ significantly, an average of the two more fairly represents the state of the economy rather than any one measure. By that averaging method, GDP grew by 2.9% in the pandemic year.

The slowdown from the heady 9% GDP growth in the mid-2000s to 3%-4% before the pandemic reflected severe weakness in demand. That weakness manifested in the glaring drop in private corporate fixed investment from a peak of 17% of GDP in 2007-8 to 11% in 2019-20. Private corporations cut back investments recognising that domestic consumers, fearful of job and earning prospects, had constrained purchasing power, and foreigners had only a limited appetite for Indian goods.

In the post-COVID-19 years, the economy has bounced around. It fell sharply, recovered modestly, slowed severely, and experienced a dead cat bounce from late-2022. The only way to assess this bouncy post-COVID phase is by determining the average growth rate over the entire period. Even that is not straightforward. If we consider the latest four quarters over the four quarters before COVID, the annual growth rate (of the income and expenditure average) is 4.2%. If we compare only the latest quarter over the quarter before COVID, the annual growth is just above 2%.

The tell-tale sign of post-COVID demand weakness is the further drop in private corporate investment to 10% of GDP in 2021-22; analysts believe that it has remained anaemic in 2022-23. Investors recognise that while rich Indians, helped by an overvalued rupee, are buying luxury goods, the majority can barely buy necessities.

In response to shrinking mass affordability, producers continue offering ultra-low price staples such as noodles, toothpaste, soaps, soft drinks, and biscuits, but sell them in packages of ever-smaller quantities. In December 2022, the government instituted a year-long free grain programme for nearly three-fifths of the population; analysts expect the programme to persist through the 2024 general elections. Meanwhile, to maintain consumption, households have slashed their savings rates to 5.1% of GDP, from 11.9% in 2019-20. Those eligible for credit cards are racking up worrying levels of debt. And with an overvalued rupee and world trade barely crawling ahead, Indian exports have been falling.

Need to bolster demand

In the glow of a fake high-growth story, government policy has tried to rev-up supply rather than bolster demand through good jobs, more human capital investment, and functional cities. Unsurprisingly, the September 2019 corporate tax cut, sops like PLI schemes, and shiny flyovers and highways have failed to revive corporate investment. Increased fiscal reliance on indirect taxes, which erode purchasing power, has aggravated demand.

A sober analysis of GDP growth just before and after COVID points to a medium-term annual GDP growth forecast of 3%-4%. Unfortunately, a domestic elite and international media narrative of "high growth" will continue, as will policies in opposition to India's needs. And when narrative and reality clash repeatedly, tragedy follows.

A sober analysis of GDP growth just before and after COVID points to a medium-term annual GDP growth forecast of 3%-4%

Drifting apart in Haryana

The BJP-JJP coalition is showing signs of strain

STATE OF PLAY

Vikas Vasudeva
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Lately, there have been signs of a rift between the ruling coalition partners in Haryana – the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) and the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP). With both the parties fighting against each other in the upcoming Assembly elections in Rajasthan, the vulnerability of the alliance has yet again come to the fore.

In Haryana, the Assembly elections are due towards the end of 2024. As the BJP and the JJP would like to retain power, their strategy seems to be to consolidate their respective vote banks by politically attacking each other.

Haryana saw a violent pro-Jat quota stir in 2016, which pitted the Jats against the non-Jats such as Sainis, Banias, Brahmins, Yadavs, and Punjabis. Inter-community relations became visibly strained. Since then, the politics surrounding Jats versus non-Jats have been at play in the State's political spectrum.

The Jats account for about 25% of Haryana's population. The JJP, the breakaway outfit of the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), draws its support largely from the agrarian class, primarily the Jats. On the other hand, the non-Jats are traditionally seen as the BJP's core supporters. The BJP also has a strong presence in urban areas. The JJP fought the 2019 Assembly elections on the anti-BJP plank. But after the BJP failed to get a majority in the 90-member Haryana Assembly, it forged an alliance with the JJP to form the government. The BJP won 40 seats in the Assembly polls while the JJP won 10. The alliance was not forged on any ideological ground.

Now, amid the uncertainty over the continuance of this alliance, both the parties, which are expected to face anti-incumbency, are attempting to consolidate their respective vote banks ahead of the Assembly and parliamentary polls. Leaders of these parties have been publicly taking digs at each other. This has led to speculation that whenever the alliance members decide to part ways, their positions on political issues or situations would be clear during the electoral battle. And this will help them counter each other and garner support from their respective vote banks.

A couple of months ago, Deputy Chief Minister and JJP leader Dushyant Chautala raised questions surrounding the handling of communal violence in parts of southern Haryana, which exposed the differences between his party and the BJP. He asserted that the organisers (Vishva Hindu Parishad) failed to share a proper estimate of the turnout during the Brijmandal Jalabhishek Yatra on July 31 in Nuh and led to violence. Chief Minister Manohar Lal disagreed with his comments.

These remarks, among others, are apparently being made against the backdrop of consolidation of their respective vote banks based on community-caste equations as well as on religion. While the BJP is expected to consolidate non-Jat votes in its favour, the JJP seems to be making attempts to reclaim the party's core support base, which could have been eroded following the year-long farmers' agitation against the now repealed farm laws. As the BJP faced the wrath of the farmers, the JJP, its ally, also suffered the anger of the agitation.

In June this year, the BJP's Haryana affairs in-charge, Biplab Kumar Debtook, took a dig at the JJP saying it did no favour to the BJP by aligning with it. Mr. Chautala responded saying the alliance was formed with "mutual consent". Subsequently, the JJP also announced its decision to contest all the 10 Lok Sabha seats in the State. In July, former BJP State president, O.P. Dhankar, said that Haryana's ruling coalition was forged to form the government in 2019, and not to contest polls.

Now, with the BJP and JJP fielding candidates against each other in Rajasthan, their face-off is all set to escalate, further fuelling speculation over the continuance of their coalition in Haryana. As of now, the BJP and JJP candidates are expected to fight each other on at least three seats for which they have declared their respective candidates.

With the Assembly election a year away in Haryana, both the ruling parties are making efforts to secure their vote banks to make a comeback even as they are likely to face the anti-incumbency factor. Interestingly, against the backdrop of the emergence of 'polarisation politics' lately in the State, if the parties succeed in getting the caste equations right in Haryana, where the election is multi-cornered and politics revolves around the coalition of castes, the electoral fight could go right down to the wire.

Israel controls movement of men and material in and out of Gaza

The number of exit permits provided to travel to Israel or through it reduced significantly in the 2000s and remained low in the 2010s

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Two Data Points published last week explored the impoverished nature of the Palestinian territories, especially Gaza, and how Israel controls employment, trade, water and electricity in both Gaza and West Bank. This third and concluding part of the series on the Israel-Hamas conflict also explores how Israel controls the economy of the Palestinian territories, but focuses only on Israel's control of exits and entry points, which determines trade and movement of men for employment and other needs.

With entries and exits by air and sea banned, only three crossings – two controlled by Israel and one by Egypt – are available for movement in and out of Gaza. In 2022, 4.24 lakh people were allowed to exit from Gaza to Israel or through Israel to the West Bank. The total estimated population of Gaza in mid-2022 was 20 lakh. In other words, one in five people were allowed to exit once in 2022. The more than 4 lakh exit permits issued in 2022 is the highest in about two decades; the previous high of 5.21 lakh was recorded in 2004. These numbers pale in comparison to the 60 lakh exits recorded in 2000.

As can be seen in **Chart 1,** the exit of people permitted to Israel or through it took a dive in the 2000s and remained low in the 2010s due to escalation of hostility at various points in time. In 2008, only 0.26 lakh permits were issued, the lowest ever. In 2006, after Hamas won the Palestinian parliamentary elections and started controlling Gaza, Israel stopped most workers from entering the country. This is significant because Gaza lacks industries and most workers found employment in Israel or its settlements. Due to lack of permits, Gaza's labour force participation rate dwindled in the following years reaching 35% in 2021, among the lowest in the world, as recorded in the Data Point last Monday. Of those who are looking for jobs in Gaza, half are unemployed. These are direct consequences of the decline in exit permits.

Not just workers, but patients from Gaza who need to cross Israel to access services in the West Bank get delayed for their appointments. In 2022, only two out of every three applications submitted for referral patients to exit Gaza were approved by the time of appointment. Given that Gaza has only 13 hospital beds per 10,000 population, which is among the lowest in the world, this restriction assumes more significance.

The Data Point published last Wednesday showed that in 2021, half the exports from Palestinian territories went to Israel and over 80% of its imports came from Israel. Therefore, restriction of goods movement can impair the Palestinian economy. Data show that in 2022, over 74,000 truckloads of goods were allowed into Gaza by Israel, the lowest since 2014. **Chart 2** shows that goods to Gaza from Israel reduced to the lowest levels immediately after the Israeli blockade in 2007. Goods which Israel may consider as having a military use are denied entry.

Gaza's import dependency on Israel for petrol, diesel, and cooking gas was high before 2018. With Israel scaling down fuel and gas exports to Gaza post 2018, Egypt has taken its spot. **Chart 3** shows petrol and diesel (in litres) which came into Gaza from Israel and Egypt.

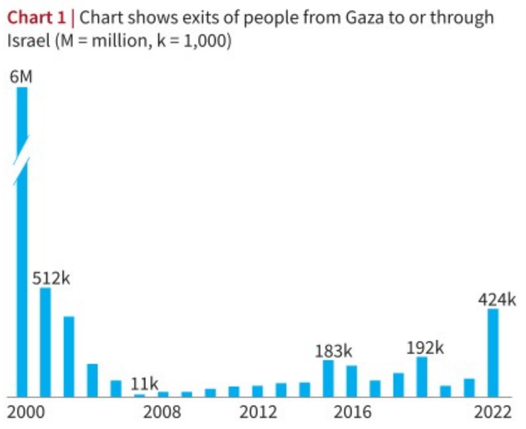
Exports are heavily restricted too. **Chart 4** shows outgoing goods from Gaza into Israel. In 2009, this was as low as 24 truckloads compared to 5,834 in 2022. While the number of truckloads allowed out of Gaza has improved in the last few years, the latest conflict could affect this.

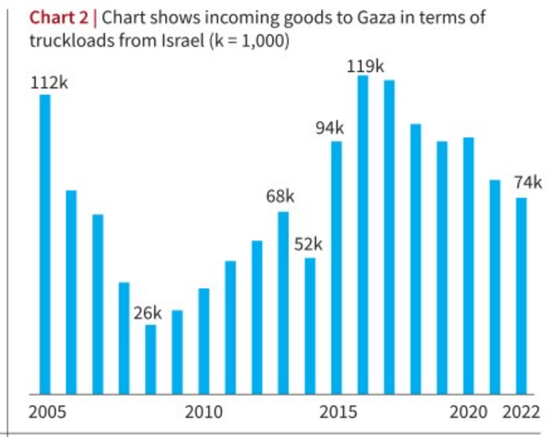
Locked in

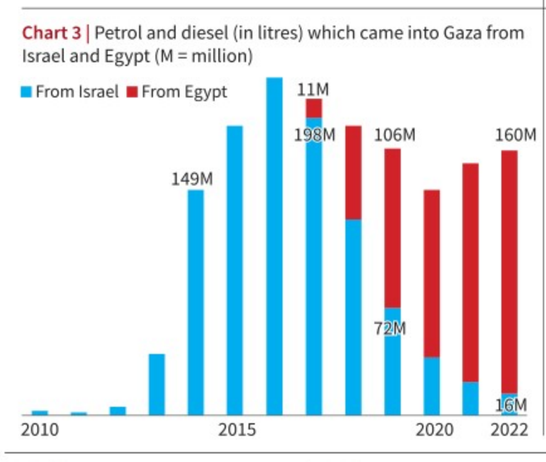
The charts are from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' report titled "Movement in and out of Gaza in 2022"

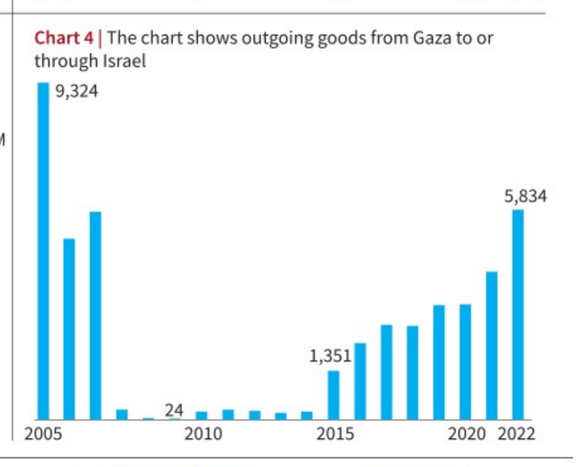
AFP

Restricted movement: A Palestinian man walks past shuttered shops during a general strike in Nablus in the occupied West Bank, on October 18, 2023, a day after a rocket hit a Gaza hospital killing hundreds.









FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 30, 1973

Sadat seeks US help to get Israel vacate occupied areas

Cairo, Oct. 29: The Egyptian President, Mr. Anwar Sadat, has sent a message to President Nixon, the authoritative newspaper Al Abram said to-day. The message on which the paper did not elaborate, was taken by the acting Foreign Minister, Mr. Ismail Fahmi, when he left Cairo for Washington last night on a special mission to discuss implementation of the Security Council resolutions on West Asia. Mr. Fahmi is likely to seek U.S. help to get Israel to withdraw from all territory occupied in the last two Arab-Israeli wars. He will have talks with the U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger. In Washington, where Mr. Fahmi will arrive to-morrow, the State Department said the talks were requested by Egypt. A Beirut newspaper reported to-day that the Soviet Union, in agreement with the United States had assured Egypt of an Israeli withdrawal from all Sinai before the start of enlarged West Asian peace talks between the antagonists in the region. The Israeli withdrawal was part of an overall Soviet-American plan aimed at a lasting settlement to the conflict, it said. The enlarged peace talks, the paper said, might be held in Washington, with both American and Soviet delegates attending. Information in Cairo indicated the possibility of two different negotiating sessions before the enlarged peace talks. The first round would include the Soviet Union, the U.S. and Egypt and the second the same two Super Powers and Israel. Several Arab States and the Palestinian resistance movement might participate in the first round of discussions.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 30, 1923

A cure for sleeping sickness

A Capetown Correspondent writes to the "Manchester Guardeau": Professor Klein and Dr. Fisher, the two German scientists who have been engaged for the past year or two in applying the "Bayer 95" treatment for sleeping sickness in Northern Rhodesia and the Congo, have now arrived in Johannesburg. Professor Klein was the director of the German Sleeping Sickness Commission in East Africa, and his colleague Dr. Fisher was identified with it. Professor Klein spoke highly of the results of their investigations, the success of which, he said, was reflected by the large number of cures effected.

From Page One

Blasts kill two at prayer meet near Kochi

The police probe initially looked into covert operatives of radical Islamist fringe outfits inimical to pro-Israel evangelical groups.

Before his surrender, Mr. Martin posted a Facebook video taking responsibility for the blasts. He said he had been a zealous member of the cult-like group for 16 years, but had become disillusioned with its "anti-national messaging" in 2017.

In the video, Mr. Martin said that his attempts to persuade the group's leadership to change tack were in vain. He indicated that he had resorted to a high-profile act of violence to spotlight the group's "anti-national indoctrination".

The police were examining the video's time stamp. Investigators also inspected Mr. Martin's rented house in Kochi and interviewed his wife. One aspect of the police probe has pivoted to the inner workings of the religious group, an official said.

The police said that a lethal combination of low-grade gunpowder and petrol had caused the blast. Officials said that the saboteur had triggered the bomb remotely. Given the improvised explosive device's fragmentation in a confined and crowded space, it had an outsize impact.

According to investigators, Mr. Martin said that he had downloaded a bomb-making manual from the internet and carried out trials, including dry runs, before the actual explosion. They were probing whether he operated as a lone wolf or had associates.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan said it was "disturbing to note" that Kerala was "becoming a place where such incidents are happening which are considered terrorist acts". Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, MP for Kerala's Wayanad, condemned the attack. "The bomb blasts during a prayer meeting in Ernakulam, Kerala, are deeply distressing and condemnable. My condolences to the bereaved family, and I hope for a quick recovery for those injured. There is no place for hatred and violence in a civilised society," he said in a post on X.

"Those who foster violence must be dealt with an iron hand," said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, posting on X.

Jarange-Patil cranks up pressure on Shinde govt.

Even if something happens to me, the Maratha community will carry on the agitation, says activist; Maharashtra Chief Minister expresses concern and hopes the activist will take a 'reasonable stance'

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

Even as his health swiftly deteriorated, Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil on Sunday remained firm on his resolution to continue his hunger strike, while warning the Eknath Shinde government it could either grant reservation to the Maratha community soon or face its wrath.

The activist, whose indefinite hunger strike entered fifth day, said he would further up the ante on the Maratha agitation after October 31, remarking that the ban on the entry of politicians across villages in Maharashtra by the Maratha community would remain in place unless the Shinde government acted quickly.

Even as Mr. Shinde expressed concern about Mr. Jarange-Patil's health and hoped the activist would take a reasonable stance instead of acting in a stubborn manner, an MP from Mr. Shinde's Shiv Sena faction – Hemant Patil – on Sunday announced his resignation in support of the Maratha agitation.

In his letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Mr. Hemant Patil said the issue of Maratha reservation had long been hanging fire, remarking that the emotions of the community regarding the quota issue were very intense.

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil questioned the silence of the Eknath Shinde government. PTI

"I am an activist fighting for the interests of the Maratha community and the farmers. Hence, I am resigning from my post on the issue of reservation," the MP wrote.

Meanwhile, a visibly feeble Mr. Jarange-Patil, speaking from his protest site, Antarwali-Sarati village in Jalna district, said the Shinde government had only two options now, to give reservation immediately or face the wrath of the Maratha community. Barely able to speak, the activist, who has emerged as the face of the Maratha quota agitation, questioned the silence of the Shinde government on the issue.

"Even if something happens to me, the Maratha community will carry on the agitation. But nothing will happen to me as I have all the blessings of the community members," Mr. Jarange-Patil said in a quavering voice.

Slams Fadnavis

He slammed Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis over the latter's reported remark that he (Mr. Fadnavis) was being made "a soft target" as he was from the Brahmin community and that he could do nothing to change his caste.

"If he cannot change his caste, we Marathas cannot change ours either. Mr. Fadnavis should refrain from discussing caste issues," Mr. Jarange-Patil said.

The activist urged Mr. Fadnavis to immediately convene a special session of the Maharashtra Legislature and pass a law to give a quota to the Marathas.

He appealed to the agitators to carry on the struggle by peaceful means.

"The children of Marathas are troubled. I cannot even take water. But I urge everyone to carry the fight by peaceful methods," said Mr. Jarange-Patil.

Meanwhile, a delegation of leaders from the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar faction), including Baramati MP Supriya Sule and Jayant Patil, met Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais urging the latter to request the intervention of the Central government into the matter before the situation got out of hand.

"The Maharashtra government does not seem to be taking any steps. Hence, the Centre ought to intervene in the quota issue and find a way out of the impasse," Mr. Jayant Patil said.

PM discusses security situation in West Asia with Egypt President

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi during the weekend to discuss the security and humanitarian situation in West Asia amid the Israel-Hamas conflict.

The discussion indicated fast-moving international exchanges among the key stakeholders as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asserted that Israel would fight a "long and difficult" war against Hamas in Gaza.

"Yesterday, spoke with President @AlsisiOfficial (Abdel Fattah El-Sisi). Exchanged views on the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in West Asia. We share concerns regarding terrorism, violence and loss of civilian lives. We agree on the need for early restoration of peace and stability and facilitating humanitarian assistance," Mr. Modi said in a statement.

Implications of conflict

In a separate statement issued on Sunday, the External Affairs Ministry said the two leaders discussed the ongoing conflict "and its implications for the region and the world".

The discussion also indicates the importance that India attaches to the role of Egypt in ensuring humanitarian assistance to Gaza Strip where most of the Israeli military action is focusing right now. On October 22 India sent humanitarian relief meant for Gaza to Egypt's El Arish airbase. However, Palestinian Ambassador to India Adnan Abu Al-Haija had told *The Hindu* that much of the relief material that various countries have been sending for Gaza remained stuck inside Egypt because of intense military activity by Israel as well as due to the shortage of fuel for the trucks inside Gaza.

India abstained at the UN General Assembly on Friday during a resolution calling for ceasefire in the fighting. The action drew criticism on several fronts, including from the Opposition Congress which said that abstaining on such a move was inconsistent with India's commitment to non-violence and conflict resolution.

Eight feared dead, 32 injured in train accident

Three ambulances were arranged immediately to shift the victims to the Kothavalasa Area Hospital and King George Hospital in Visakhapatnam. Medical teams of Vizianagaram district and the State Health Department reached the spot. The Revenue, Roads and Buildings, and Transport departments were directed to take part in rescue operations together with the Railways.

Indian Red Cross Society Chairman K.R.D. Prasada Rao said that local volunteers were asked to extend aid to the patients and inform their family members and relatives. Divisional Railway Manager Saurabh Prasad reached the spot and oversaw the relief operations. Accident relief trains also reached the site.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased, ₹2 lakh for the grievously injured, and ₹50,000 for those with minor injuries. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy too announced a similar compensation package.

Hundreds reached the Vizianagaram and Srikakulam railway stations to know about the safety of their near and dear ones who were travelling on the two trains, which were reportedly packed.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Mr. Vaishnaw and took stock of the situation. Mr. Modi extended condolences to the bereaved families and prayed that the injured recover soon, a release said.

At least 14 ambulances have been deployed for rescue operations, State officials said. The ambulances arrived from nearby places.

Maharashtra Speaker to meet S-G ahead of SC hearing on Sena disqualification row

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar on Sunday left for New Delhi to meet Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, ahead of the Supreme Court's scheduled hearing on Monday of the plea filed by the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) faction, which has been urging the Speaker to expedite disqualification proceedings against legislators of the ruling Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena group.

"There are a couple of meetings scheduled in Delhi, including one with the Solicitor-General... I will take legal advice [on the Shiv Sena hearing] and then decide over it," Mr. Narwekar told reporters at the Mumbai airport.

Rahul Narwekar

Responding to a query on notices sent to Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLAs of both camps over disqualification petitions, the Speaker said: "It is part of the procedure. I issued the notices after scrutiny of the submitted disqualification petitions was over."

The Supreme Court is slated to hear pleas, filed by both the Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena and the Sharad Pawar-led NCP group, both allies in the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance, on Monday.

Final opportunity

The Supreme Court on October 17, while pulling up the Speaker, had granted Mr. Narwekar a final opportunity to give a realistic time-frame to adjudicate on the cross-petitions that have been filed by the rival factions of the Shiv Sena.

The court had rebuked Mr. Narwekar for delaying the adjudication in September as well.

The court had directed the Speaker to announce within a week the date for the ruling on the disqualification petitions filed by the Sena factions. It observed that nothing had been done despite its direction to the Speaker to take a decision on the pleas within a reasonable time.

'Shinde will remain CM even if he is disqualified as MLA'

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Amid the raging disqualification tussle between the rival Shiv Sena groups, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party leader Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday exuded confidence that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde would not be disqualified, remarking that even if that happened in the unlikely event, then Mr. Shinde would be elected as an MLC and retain the top post.

Ever since rebel Nationalist Congress Party leader Ajit Pawar joined the ruling Shinde-Fadnavis government on July 2, there has been speculation that Mr. Pawar would become the next Chief Minister in the event of the Shinde-led Shiv Sena MLAs being disqualified. The rival Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena (UBT) has challenged the legality of the Shinde-BJP government following Mr. Shinde's revolt last year which vertically split the Shiv Sena.

Stressing that Mr. Shinde would continue as the Chief Minister come what may, Mr. Fadnavis, speaking to a vernacular channel, said: "To begin with, Mr. Shinde will not get disqualified. Even in the unlikely event that does happen, we will get him elected to the Legislative Council and he will retain the CM's post."

He made it clear that the 2024 Lok Sabha election would be fought by the three ruling parties – the BJP, Mr. Shinde's Shiv Sena faction and Ajit Pawar's NCP group – under Mr. Shinde's leadership.

Policeman shot at by terrorist in Srinagar

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

A police officer was injured after a terrorist shot at him in Srinagar on Sunday.

Official sources said a terrorist fired multiple shots from a close range at Inspector Masroor Ahmad, a resident of Yachipora, when he was at a cricket ground at Eidgah in the afternoon.

He was immediately shifted to a hospital for treatment. Preliminary investigation reveals that a pistol was used in the terror crime, the Jammu and Kashmir police said.

According to officials in the hospital, the police officer sustained three bullet injuries in the attack. His condition was said to be critical. Security was heightened in Srinagar following the attack.

Govt. preparing to release Vision India 2047 document

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The government is in the midst of finalising a national vision plan to make India a developed nation by 2047 and ensure that the country does not slip into a middle-income trap that several countries have fallen into at similar stages of development.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to unveil the plan within the next three months, which includes an outline of reforms and outcomes to be achieved by 2030, along with structural changes in governance that will be critical to make India a $30-trillion economy by 2047, with a per capita income of $18,000-$20,000.

The NITI Aayog is giving finishing touches to the plan called 'Vision India@2047' that has been in the works for almost two years and was presented to Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba last Monday. In November, parleys will be held with thought leaders and corporate heads such as Tim Cook, Sundar Pichai, Gautam Adani, Mukesh Ambani, K.M. Birla, N. Chandrasekharan and Indra Nooyi, to glean their insights.

Middle-income trap

"By December, we will have the draft version of the plan ready, and several States are also in the process of preparing their own road maps," Niti Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO) B.V.R. Subrahmanyam said on Sunday. The national plan also seeks to address regional cleavages in economic development and reforms of government processes.

"The biggest thing we're all worried about is what is called the middle-income trap. You can reach a $5,000-$6,000 per capita income, and then will not move fast. The whole purpose of the vision is to avoid that and take the country to the next level," he said, citing the example of Argentina that has failed to live up to its promise over the years.

"We have cut through the poverty issue, we have resolved the problems of the last century which are roads, electricity, and water, and in a couple of years these challenges won't remain. Now we have to get to the next level, our momentum will take you through the next three to four years, then you will start hitting this middle-income trap," the CEO of the government's think tank explained.

"How do you address regional disparities, as you see growth in India happening in some parts, with the East and North getting left behind and the West and South pushing ahead. It's not good for the country," he averred.

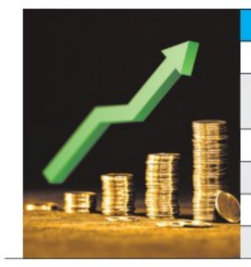
While India's share of the global GDP has tripled from 1.1% in 1991 to 3.5% in 2023 and it has become the world's fifth largest economy, none of the world's largest banks, contractors, legal, consultancy, or accountancy firms are from India, Mr. Subrahmanyam pointed out.

"The whole thing is there should be Indian firms dominating parts of the landscape. We are the world's largest IT sector in terms of exports but are we the biggest software developer?" he asked rhetorically, noting that the plan also explores which sectors and companies can be pushed to become global champions.

Developing the skill sets that India's young population need to meet global needs, is another priority. "There's a huge demand for our nurses in the world but half our colleges are not even accepted on the other side. So some States are sending nurses in huge number, while some are not," Mr. Subrahmanyam noted.

Growth path

What does the future hold? Scenario building for macroeconomic indicators



Indicator	Units	2030	2040	2047
GDP at current prices	₹ trillion	609.04	1,759.79	3,604.94
Per capita GDP at current prices	₹	4,02,008	10,93,037	21,84,812
Exports	$ trillion	1.58	4.56	8.67
Imports	$ trillion	1.88	5.92	12.12
Investment	₹ trillion	195.5	591.1	1,273.40
Savings	₹ trillion	207.8	649.4	1,339.70

Source: NITI Aayog

Kharge targets Modi government over rising onion prices

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday slammed the Narendra Modi government over the rising prices of onion, and said the people of five States will tell the secret of why its prices have risen again by defeating the BJP in the upcoming polls. Mr. Kharge's attack came after onion prices further rose to ₹65-₹80 per kg in the retail market of the national capital.

In a post on X, Mr. Kharge said people's cries, under the burden of inflation in the past nine and a half years of the BJP government, can be heard. "... every time on the issue of inflation, the Modi government has made fun of the public and teased it like this - 'Inflation is not visible'; 'I don't eat onions'; 'It is better than other countries'," Mr. Kharge said. "Why is onion expensive again? Now, the people of five States will tell the secret of it by defeating the BJP!" he added.

Elections are taking place in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Mizoram.

The Congress on Saturday alleged that the Modi government has "failed" to control rising prices, and asserted that the anger of the people troubled by inflation will be clearly visible in the results of the upcoming elections.

ASSEMBLY POLLS 2023

BJP releases final list for M.P. election

A day before the last date for filling nominations, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday announced its sixth list of candidates for the November 17 Assembly election in Madhya Pradesh.

The BJP has fielded Mukesh Tandon from Vidisha and Panna Lal Shakya from Guna. With this, the party has declared candidates for all 230 seats in the State.

Believed to be close to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Mr. Tandon lost the 2018 Assembly election from Vidisha, a long-time bastion of the BJP. Mr. Tandon will face Shashank Bhargava of the Congress who defeated him in 2018 election.

Mr. Shakya, won from Guna, in the 2013 Assembly election. He was, however, denied ticket in 2018, with the party favouring current MLA Gopilal Jatav.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at a poll campaign in Bhopal. ANI

Don't fall into 'trap' of smaller parties: Digvijaya

Do not fall into the "trap" of smaller political parties as there are only two main parties in Madhya Pradesh — the Congress and the BJP, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh said on Sunday, in a message to the voters.

In a message posted on X, he said, "Either the Congress will form the government or the BJP. These small outfits are not going to form a government." "So, I appeal to all voters not to fall into their trap," he said.

Parties such as the Bahujan Samaj Party, in an alliance with the Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP); the Samajwadi Party; the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP); and the Aazad Samaj Party (ASP)-Kanshi Ram have also fielded their candidates in several constituencies.

Mr. Singh's message is seen as an attempt to prevent the division of votes.

"We were able to give ticket to 20% women so that is a very big plus. There are youngsters ... I think the Cong. has done very well in selecting candidates

T.S. SINGH DEO
Deputy Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

Beniwal upbeat about chances of RLP in polls

The Rashtriya Loktantrik Party convener and MP, Hanuman Beniwal, said on Sunday the RLP-Azad Samaj Party alliance will make Rajasthan "free of the BJP and the Congress". He was speaking at a *Satta Sankalp Maharally* in Jaipur. Mr. Beniwal said every party worker will take the message of change to every village in State. PTI

People want change. Especially in the case of minorities, nothing has happened. Development of Backward Classes has also not happened

MOHAMMED AZHARUDDIN
Cong. candidate, Telangana

Union Minister Amit Shah made the announcement about Chief Minister post at a rally in Suryapet. PTI

BJP's Telangana gambit makes others rethink strategies

Ravi Reddy
HYDERABAD

The event at Suryapet would have been a routine election rally addressed by top politicians, but for Union Minister Amit Shah announcing that if the BJP were to be voted to power in Telangana, it would make a Backward Class leader the Chief Minister.

This time around, the BJP has taken a calculated risk to boost its prospects for the November 30 Telangana Assembly election. Its announcement has pushed the other contenders – the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) and the Congress – on the defensive.

The party has 20 candidates from the BC communities on its first list of 52 candidates. The Congress has only 19 on its two lists for over 100 constituencies. Only 22 of the 119 candidates of the BRS are from BC communities. Backward Classes constitute 52% of the total population of 3.82 crore in the State, show Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) data this year.

Ahead of the 2014 election, the BRS (then Telangana Rashtra Samithi) chief, K. Chandrashekar Rao, promised to give the post of Chief Minister of the new State of Telangana for a person from the Scheduled Caste community. In the run-up to the present election, BRS working president and Mr. Rao's son, K.T. Rama Rao, acknowledged that the party had not fulfilled this promise. However, in Hyderabad two days ago, he said, "But people have approved the stand and supported our party by giving a higher majority in the 2018 election than in 2014."

The BRS intends to focus on the BC angle. Mr. Rama Rao mentioned that his party has been championing the cause of Backward Classes since 2014. "It is our party that first raised the demand for BC census and creation of a separate OBC Ministry at the Centre. The first session of the Telangana Assembly in 2014 adopted a resolution urging the Centre to take up BC census, reserving 33% quota in law-making bodies," he said.

It comes as a surprise that a cadre party like the BJP chose to make announcements about the chief ministerial post prior to the election. Senior BJP leaders maintain that the announcement is a larger national strategy to call out the Congress-led alliance's promise.

The BJP has to do some soul-searching if its promise of a BC Chief Minister is real. The unceremonious ouster of Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay, a BC leader, as the State unit chief has not gone down well with the party's rank and file. Mr. Bandi hailed from the dominant Munnuru Kapu caste, and his replacement alienated the community from the party. Munnuru Kapus can determine the fate of candidates in several constituencies.

The move to name a BC leader as CM could also be an attempt to win back the Munnuru Kapus into the party fold. BJP OBC wing chairman K. Laxman, Mr. Bandi and Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind are the leading figures of the Munnuru Kapus. Huzurabad MLA Etela Rajender, chairman of the BJP's Election Management Committee and BC leader, belongs to the Mudiraj caste, another influential community.

The CM pick is likely to be from among these four leaders if the BJP is able to cross the magic figure of 60 in the 119-strong Assembly.

It looks like the BJP's BC card is likely to be the rallying point for all parties to win over voters.

As MNF and ZPM go head to head, BJP waiting for dust to settle in Mizoram

Saffron party has not ruled out Zoram People's Movement as a possible ally if no party attains a majority in 40-member Assembly; pollsters predict a close contest between MNF and ZPM, both avowedly adhering to Christian values and the cause of 'Zo unification', in the November 7 election

IN FOCUS

Rahul Karmakar
AIZAWL

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is eyeing its maiden entry into the government of Christian-majority Mizoram, considered its "final frontier" in Northeast India comprising eight States.

The BJP has also set its sights on the regional Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) as a possible ally if no party attains a majority in the 40-member Assembly after the November 7 election. The ZPM is expected to give the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF), a partner in the BJP-helmed National Democratic Alliance at the Centre, a tough fight.

"We had candidates for all 40 seats but merely contesting 40 seats is one thing and putting up candidates capable of winning is another. So, instead of contesting all, we concentrated on 23 seats so that we are in a position to be in the government," Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister for Earth Sciences and the BJP's State in-charge, told *The Hindu*.

Clocking numbers: Supporters during BJP president J.P. Nadda's meeting at Tuichawng in Lawngtlai, Mizoram on Saturday. ANI

The BJP contested 39 seats in 2018, but the party's had just one winner, Buddha Dhan Chakma. He won from Tuichawng, where the Buddhist Chakma people are in a majority. The party garnered 8.09% of the total votes, and 33 of its candidates forfeited deposits. "We are confident of winning a good number of seats. This confidence is based on ground reports and homework over the past few months," Mr. Rijiju said.

The BJP's hopes are also riding on three MNF turncoats – former Assembly Speaker Lalrinliana Sailo (Mamit constituency), former Minister K. Beichhua (Saiha), and former party adviser T. Lalengthanga (West Tuipui) – apart from the expected support in four districts where the minority Bru, Chakma, Lai, and Mara people hold the key.

These communities inhabit Mamit, Lunglei, Lawngtlai, and Siaha districts. Mamit is in northern Mizoram while the other three districts are in the south.

The BJP replaced Buddha Dhan Chakma, a doctor who announced his retirement from politics in August, with Durjya Dhan Chakma this time. The party's State unit president, Vanlalhmuaka, is contesting the Dampa seat, synonymous with the State's lone tiger reserve bordering Bangladesh.

"As a more organised party compared to 2018, we will have the number necessary for others to form a coalition government," Mr. Vanlalhmuaka said, insisting the BJP has set a realistic target.

Pollsters in Mizoram believe that the November 7 election will be a close contest between the MNF and the ZPM, both avowedly adhering to Christian values and taking up the cause of "Zo unification" envisaging the integration of Kuki, Mizo, Chin, and other ethnically related communities in Mizoram, Manipur, Myanmar, and Bangladesh.

The Congress has been in a rebuilding mode under the new State chief, Lalsawta, after the retirement of five-time Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla a couple of years ago.

Mr. Rijiju hinted at the possibility of the ZPM, replacing the MNF as the BJP's ally in Mizoram if it emerges as the single-largest party. Local BJP leaders resent the MNF, specifically Chief Minister Zoramthanga, for being "two-faced" by keeping a distance from the party at home while maintaining friendship at the Centre.

Mr. Zoramthanga has been critical of the BJP's handling of the Manipur crisis, and declared he would not share the dais with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the election campaign. The PM's campaign in Mizoram was called off later. "We have not had any discussion with the ZPM, whose fight is against the MNF and Congress. But if the ZPM wins a good number of seats, they will need us. They will need to work with the BJP," Mr. Rijiju said.

The ZPM has denied warming to the BJP, but has not ruled out any post-poll possibilities.

Cong. adds free treatment, loan waiver to its list of promises

The Hindu Bureau
JAGDALPUR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday promised free treatment facilities for up to ₹10 lakh to the poor in Chhattisgarh if his party was re-elected to power in the State.

Addressing rallies, Mr. Gandhi also said that the party's farm loan waiver promise would be approved in the first cabinet meet of the new government as in the past, even assuring the farmers that they would get ₹3,000 per quintal for paddy, up from the existing rate of ₹2,640. He said that assistance amount for landless farmers would be increased from ₹7,000 to ₹10,000.

On the health promise, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel wrote on X that under Dr. Khubchand Baghel Health Assistance Scheme, the poor would get free treatment for up to ₹10 lakh in place of existing ₹5 lakh, while others will get up to ₹5 lakh in place of the existing ₹50,000.

Mr. Gandhi said that the amount of money Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave to Industrialist Gautam Adani, the Congress would give to labourers, farmers and small traders of Chhattisgarh.

Status check on Congress promise of free education in Chhattisgarh institutions

Shubhomoy Sikdar
JAGDALPUR

Ahead of the Chhattisgarh Assembly election, the Congress is hoping that its promise of free education from kindergarten to post-graduation level at government institutions, turns out to be a game-changer.

However, experts have advised going through the fine print of the promise, which the party calls "KG to PG". From financial burden to fears that it would compromise on quality of education, experts have shared a range of issues regarding the programme.

"Free education will be provided for students from kindergarten to postgraduation in government institutions," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said at a rally on Saturday. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel followed it up with a social media post mentioning that the guarantee would usher in a "new revolution in education in Chhattisgarh" and mentioned engineering, medicine, ITI, and diploma as some of the courses for which no fee will be charged.

Former State Minister and Chhattisgarh BJP leader, Brijmohan Agrawal, says there is nothing new in the promise. "Rahul Gandhi has said nothing new. If Congress and Rahul Gandhi have the courage, they should announce that fees of students in private schools and colleges will be waived," he said.

Behind a promise: The party has promised free education from kindergarten to post-graduation in Chhattisgarh. FILE PHOTO

B.N. Sharma, a Durg-based educationist who has extensively worked on school and college education in Chhattisgarh, agrees that in schooling, it will be "*status quo*", and adds that even in college and university levels, there are many welfare schemes already present. He seeks better clarity on the road map. "Other than in professional colleges, woman students do not have to pay any fee already for education in government colleges There are very few government medical and engineering colleges and the number of private colleges is far more," he says.

B.K.S. Ray, an educationist and former IAS officer who retired in the rank of Chief Secretary, feels that delivering on such a promise is "possible". "Financially, it is going to put an extreme burden on the exchequer and it will also impact the quality of education," he says.

Others said at the college level, the scheme would make a substantial difference. For example, a private college in Durg district charges ₹31,500 for Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) course and ₹20,500 for D.Ed. The corresponding fees for the courses in government colleges are ₹8,000-10,000 and ₹5,000 respectively. The principal of the college expects students to "flock to the government colleges" in case the fee is reduced to nil.

Political circles abuzz after Gehlot meets senior BJP leader

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Suryakanta Vyas was dropped from her Soorsagar seat in the list of BJP candidates announced on October 21

A midnight meeting of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot with octogenarian Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Suryakanta Vyas in his hometown Jodhpur earlier has generated considerable interest in political circles.

Ms. Vyas, 85, was dropped from her Soorsagar seat in Jodhpur on the BJP's list of candidates announced on October 21.

Mr. Gehlot called on the six-time MLA, affectionately known as *Jiji* (elder sister), at her residence after wrapping up a two-day campaign trail in his constituency, Sardarpura, on October 23 and enquired about her health. The Chief Minister said he had gone to Ms. Vyas's residence as a "courtesy visit".

The Soorsagar seat has remained out of reach for the Congress since 2008, when it was converted from the reserved to the general category after delimitation. Ms. Vyas has won the seat three times, while she had earlier won thrice in Jodhpur's old city constituency.

Despite Ms. Vyas having expressed a desire to contest the upcoming election, the BJP denied her ticket apparently because of her age. However, Mr. Gehlot has said several times that Ms. Vyas did not get the ticket because of her public comments praising him, especially after the release of funds of ₹4.75 crore for the renovation of the Ushtravahini Devi's temple in the city, revered by the Pushkarna Brahmin community to which she belongs.

Significant strength

The BJP has replaced Ms. Vyas with the party's city unit president, Devendra Joshi, in Soorsagar. Ms. Vyas has extended support to Mr. Joshi and said she would join his campaign, while the Congress is yet to announce its candidate for the constituency, where the Pushkarna Brahmin community has a significant strength.

Political observers believe that Mr. Gehlot is trying to win over the Pushkar Brahmin community, the core voter base of the BJP in Soorsagar.

INBRIEF

'Penny drop' verification is mandatory for NPS fund exit

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority has made 'penny drop' verification mandatory for the withdrawal of funds by subscribers of the National Pension System. Through the process, Central Recordkeeping Agencies (CRAs) check the active status of the savings bank account and match the name in the bank account number with the name in Permanent Retirement Account Number. The provisions will apply across NPS, Atal Pension Yojana and NPS Lite for exits/withdrawals and for modification in subscribers' bank account details. The validity of the account is verified by making a 'test transaction' by dropping a small amount into the beneficiary's bank account and matching the name based on the response. PTI

Integrated nursing education to be implemented at AIIMS

The AIIMS Delhi administration has decided to implement an integrated nursing education and service model at the medical institute. The Indian Nursing Council, through its letter dated April 4, 2019, granted approval for adoption of an innovative approach – Integration of Nursing Education and Service (Dual Role). This model aims to enhance the quality of nursing care provided to patients while simultaneously advancing the clinical skills of nursing students. This initiative is also expected to optimize the utilization of nursing cadres in both academic and clinical settings, an official said. PTI

Body found at Bihar Congress MLA's ancestral residence

The body of a 24-year-old man was found at the ancestral house of Congress MLA Neetu Singh in Nawada district of Bihar on Saturday night, the police said. The deceased has been identified as Piyush Kumar alias Suddu, a distant relative of the MLA. Piyush is the brother of the MLA's personal aide Prince Kumar. Piyush's mother Mintu Devi said that he was invited to a party by Ms. Singh's brother-in-law's son Golu Singh. She alleged, "Someone told me that Piyush had a fight with Golu and he was locked in the room. I don't know the reason behind the fight but they must have fought after getting drunk."

Promote Bihar's tourism: Tejashwi to diaspora in Japan

In a bid to boost tourism, Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday interacted with the Bihar diaspora at a programme organised by the Japan Chapter of the Bihar Foundation in Tokyo. Mr. Yadav is leading the Bihar Tourism delegation to the JATA Japan Tourism Expo 2023. While interacting with people, he said, "Bihari people are hardworking, honest and responsible. If the Bihari diaspora and resources are channelised in a planned manner under a vision, then Bihar can emerge as a centre of skilled manpower. We know that technology, and the aspirations of young Biharis, are creating new opportunities in Bihar."

Canada-India rift is 'painful' for common friend Australia: envoy

Philip Green says Australia hopes and trusts that the two countries can work through these difficulties and find some new foothold in the bilateral relationship; last week, Australia had expressed concern over expulsion of 41 Canadian diplomats

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Philip Green. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The rift between Canada and India is "painful" for Australia that has good ties with both, but it will not affect bilateral ties, Australian High Commissioner to India Philip Green has said.

In an interview to *The Hindu*, he said the conversations between Indian and Australian officials over the issue would "stay" between the diplomats.

Mr. Green, who took over as Australia's Ambassador in August, confirmed that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who travelled to India twice this year, was looking forward to return to New Delhi next year for the Quad summit due to be held around January 26. He, however, did not confirm the date for the summit, saying it was for India to announce.

"Canada is an old friend of Australia's, and India is a dear friend and a country of considerable importance to us," the High Commissioner said, likening the India-Canada tussle sparked by the killing of Khalistani separatist Nijjar in Surrey in Canada, and the expulsion of diplomats to a dilemma between personal friends. "It is painful, and it is difficult. We hope and we trust that some new foothold can be made in the bilateral relationship and they can work through these difficulties as soon as possible," he added.

Last week, Australia had issued a statement of "deep concern" that had been conveyed at the "senior levels" in India after the government demanded the expulsion of two-thirds of the Canadian High Commission staff in New Delhi, and 41 Canadian diplomats left the country under threat of having their diplomatic immunity revoked. "These conversations are sensitive and I don't propose to go into them. What transpires between diplomats is a matter that will stay between diplomats," he said.

While Australia is a "Five Eyes" alliance partner of Canada, along with the U.S., the U.K. and New Zealand that share real-time regular intelligence, it is also working with India in the Quad partnership for the Indo-Pacific with the U.S. and Japan. It is India's turn to host the Quad summit next year, and sources have confirmed that the Modi government had earlier hoped to have all Quad leaders as guests for Republic Day in 2024. However, as Australian National Day also falls on January 26, Mr. Albanese is unable to travel to India for the summit before January 27. Diet, the Japanese Parliament, will be in its Budget session on January 26, but Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida can travel for the next day as well, it is learnt.

U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti had confirmed in September that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had personally invited U.S. President Joseph Biden to be the chief guest on Republic Day, and the U.S. confirmation is awaited, after a which the date for the Quad summit would be sealed. A response from the U.S. may arrive in the next few weeks, at the India-U.S. '2+2' meeting where External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh are expected to host U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and U.S. Defence Secretary Gen. Lloyd Austin in Delhi for talks in the first half of November.

"It's entirely up to the Government in India, and in particular Mr. Modi, to announce the date of the Quad summit. Mr. Albanese was here for the G-20 summit, and he is looking forward to the Quad summit. He's very much looking forward to coming back to India," the Australian High Commissioner said about the scheduling.

When asked if the India-Australia Comprehensive Economic and Commercial Agreement free trade agreement (FTA) would be ready for signing by Mr. Albanese's visit, Mr. Green said that would be his "preference" but he couldn't put any "deadline" to it. Indian and Australian negotiators had completed an early harvest Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) that came into force in December 2022, and have held seven rounds of talks on the comprehensive FTA.

Praising ECTA and citing a 75% trade utilisation figure for the agreement, Mr. Green said that one of the issues holding up the CECA is on gaining access to Indian markets for Australian agricultural and dairy products.

Govt. tried to weaken 2010 monuments Act: Congress

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday alleged that the Modi government had tried to "weaken" a 2010 law meant for the protection of monuments and archaeological sites and that determined resistance of the Congress and other parties had prevented this from happening so far.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh shared a media report on X (formerly Twitter) on the National Monuments Authority (NMA) having released draft heritage bylaws for one more Centrally protected monument in Bihar – the supposed site of the Palace of Asoka located in the State capital – for conservation and periphery development.

In his post, Mr. Ramesh said, "The National Monuments Authority (NMA) was set up soon after Parliament passed the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act in March 2010."

The NMA has so far laid in both Houses of Parliament a total of eight heritage bylaws covering 34 Centrally protected monuments, he pointed out.

Ahead of Deepavali, Modi urges citizens to buy local products

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ahead of Deepavali, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged Indians to promote the 'Vocal for Local' campaign and buy indigenous products in order to achieve the dream of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

In his *Mann Ki Baat* address, Mr. Modi said the ongoing Khadi Mahotsav had broken all previous sales records. While sales had barely touched ₹30,000 crore in the previous years, this year they were about to reach ₹1.25 lakh crore, he said. "Benefiting from these sales are our weavers, handicraft artisans, our farmers, cottage industries engaged in growing Ayurvedic plants," Mr. Modi said.

He said the 'Vocal for Local' spirit should not be limited only to festival shopping, but also include that for all the necessities of life. "Today, India is becoming the world's biggest manufacturing hub. Many big brands are manufacturing their products here. If we adopt those products, then 'Make In India' gets a fillip... While buying such products, try to insist on the pride of our country, the UPI digital payment system," Mr. Modi added.

He paid tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose birth anniversary falls on October 31. On that day, the Union government will launch a nationwide organisation named Mera Yuva Bharat to bring together young volunteers keen to participate in building a developed India.

He also congratulated sportspersons for their achievements in the Asian Games, Para Asian Games, and the Special Olympics World Summer Games.

Developed countries to overshoot carbon emissions goal, says study

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Developed countries – responsible for three-fourths of existing carbon emissions – will end up emitting 38% more carbon in 2030 than they have committed to, going by current trajectories, shows a study published last week by the Delhi-based think tank Council for Energy Environment and Water (CEEW).

The study, which comes ahead of the 28th Conference of Parties (COP-28) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Dubai in November and December, shows that 83% of this overshoot will be caused by the U.S., Russia, and the European Union.

At COP-28, countries are expected to give an account of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which are their commitments to the UN on emission cuts.

The CEEW study noted that the NDCs of developed countries already fall short of the global average reduction of emissions to 43% below 2019 levels that is needed to keep temperatures from rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius. Instead, developed countries' collective NDCs only amount to a 36% cut.

For a fighting chance at keeping warming below critical tipping points, decades of negotiations have obliged developed countries to lead global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with legally binding targets.

Collectively, developed countries were to reduce emissions by 5% from their 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012, and by 18% during 2013 to 2020. Several countries have committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Doing so would require steady measurable cuts every decade until that year. As an intermediate objective, countries presented data to the UN on their projected cuts until 2030. To keep temperatures below 1.5 degrees Celsius, developed countries need to cut emissions to 43% below their 2019 level. However, the CEEW study found that based on their current emissions trajectories, their cuts would likely amount to only 11% by 2030.

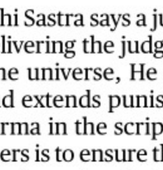
Except for two countries – Belarus and Norway – none of the developed countries seem to be on the path to meet their 2030 targets, though Japan and Kazakhstan are close, and are expected to miss their targets by only a single percentage point.

Missing targets

Developed countries are projected to emit 38% more carbon in 2030 than they have committed to

Party	2030 NDC target	Projected 2030 reduction
U.S.	50%	22%
Russia	70%	48%
Japan	46%	45%
U.K. and Northern Ireland	68%	56%
Canada	40%	30%
EU	55%	44%
Norway	55%	57%
Kazakhstan	15%	14%

■ Japan and Kazakhstan are set to miss their target by one percentage point

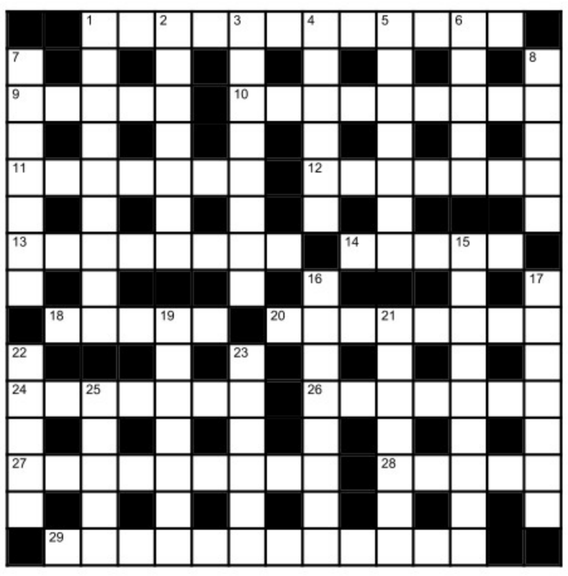


TH CROSSWORD + 14007

(set by Karaoke)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Details of maniacs with bars (4,3,5)
9 Heavy iron block from African village (5)
10 I'm opting out of dodgy re-claimants in connection with inheritance (9)
11 Special services for goblins (7)
12 Without light, you and I start browsing illegal sites (4,3)
13 Type of vehicle that is difficult to handle, needs kick-starting by muscleman essentially (8)
14 Pleasure-seeker eliminates don in robbery (5)
18 Order to expel director for knavery essentially (5)
20 Couple wearing nothing at regatta (4,4)
24 They barely go out when it's Sun God's final eclipse (7)
26 Ethnic cooking features ultimate rock cake (7)
27 Spooner's record battles for those helping to see things in obscurity (3,6)
28 I drifted off without penny in a place surrounded by water (5)
29 Limbs for a lot of money? (2,3,3,1,3)

Down

1 Don't worry about hideout sheltering obnoxious people (5,4)
2 Author narrated plot to kill Democrat and Republican (7)
3 A trade barrier gets priority for water (5,3)
4 Commit yourself to defeat independent for old crack (6)
5 The side of a coin's original value swapping the place of shilling, say (7)
6 Announcement of fit project (5)
7 Hounds wild beasts biting some student (7)
8 Strikes by staffs (5)
15 Device for firing bullet around playground quietly (9)
16 Bruised jailbird took advantage of model inside (8)
17 Angry ape gets bananas, maybe 21 (7)
19 Get rid of tunic as hierarchical clothing (7)
21 Everyday fight ending with opponent usurping island (7)
22 Chopper of king regularly providing drugs (5)
23 Arguably steroid treatment has magical answer basically for breathing problem (6)
25 What will the workers at the coalface do to eat heartily? (3,2)

SUDOKU

	2			1	5			8
				7				3
6	4				2	1		
	6		9					
3								1
					3		4	
		9	7				5	4
4				2				
1			4	8			3	

No.SS5963 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

U		U		F		D		J		I		P		L
S	U	P	E	R	N	O	V	A		S	O	L	V	E
A		S		I		L		L		L		A		F
G	E	T	R	E	A	L		F	R	E	I	G	H	T
E		R		N		O		R				U		B
S	P	E	E	D		P	H	E	N	O	M	E	N	A
		A		L				Z		M				C
C	O	M	B	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	L	O	C	K
H				E		G				I		U		
O	B	S	E	S	S	I	V	E		B	I	T	E	R
I		K				S		C		U		B		E
C	R	E	W	C	U	T		L	A	S	Q	U	E	S
E		W		A		E		A		B		R		A
S	T	E	P	S		R	U	I	N	O	U	S	L	Y
T		R		E		S		R		X		T		S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	5	9	7	1	6	3	2	8
3	2	8	9	4	5	7	6	1
7	1	6	3	2	8	4	5	9
5	4	7	1	6	9	8	3	2
8	9	1	4	3	2	5	7	6
6	3	2	5	8	7	1	9	4
2	7	4	6	5	1	9	8	3
9	8	3	2	7	4	6	1	5
1	6	5	8	9	3	2	4	7

FAITH

Punishment and mercy

The Neethi Sastra says a judge must be unbiased, and neutral in delivering the judgment. Since God is the supreme jury of the universe, He showers blessings for our good deeds and extends punishment for wrongdoings. This is called karma in the scriptures. The reason for punishing wrongdoers is to ensure they do not repeat their wrongdoing. How does granting punishment become mercy or compassion? Sri Ganesa Sharma said in a discourse that Sri Chandrasekarendra Swamigal, the great seer of the Kanchi Kamakoti Mutt, spoke of it in Chapter Three of his *Deivathin Kural*.

The Acharya said that when a person suffers, it is a litmus test of others based on whether they come forward to extend the best possible help. By doing so, such people not only help others but also wipe out their sins. The tendency to help should come voluntarily.

Saint poet Tiruvalluvar says friendship comes to the rescue of friends in distress like one's own hands setting right the slipping dress (*'udukkai izhanthavan'*). So karma acts as punishment for sufferers, and as mercy or compassion for those who step up to help.

All the 16 Vidhyas, four Vedas, six Sastras and 18 Puranas consider the fundamental qualities of kindness, affection, mercy and compassion as great virtues.

SEOUL

Mass commemoration held on first anniversary of S. Korea stampede

REUTERS

Thousands of people held a mass commemoration in Seoul on Sunday to mark the first anniversary of the deadly stampede that killed nearly 160 people during Halloween festivities last year. A year on, the victims' families said they are still seeking answers to what went wrong and who was responsible for the stampede. AFP

LOS ANGELES

Matthew Perry, star of the hit U.S. television show *Friends*, dies at 54

AP

Matthew Perry, troubled star of the smash hit TV sitcom *Friends*, was found dead at his home in Los Angeles on Saturday. He was 54. First responders found Perry unconscious in a hot tub at his house. He battled for years with addiction to painkillers and alcohol, and attended rehabilitation clinics on multiple occasions. AFP

ISTANBUL

Turkiye celebrates centenary in shadow of Israel's war with Gaza

AP

Turkiye marked its centenary as a post-Ottoman republic with somewhat muted celebrations held in the shadow of Israel's war in Gaza. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan led the events that both honour the secular republic's founder and play up the achievement of the Islamic-rooted party that has run Turkiye since 2002. AFP

PARIS

France plans to make abortion rights 'irreversible', says Macron

AFP

French President Emmanuel Macron said he plans to enshrine abortion rights in the constitution to make them "irreversible". He said a draft project would be submitted to the State Council, France's highest administrative court, this coming week, with a view to making abortion rights constitutional by the end of the year. AFP

Israeli actions 'may force everyone' to act, says Iran

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Sunday said Israel's ongoing bombardment of Gaza "may force everyone" to act in the latest warning issued by the Islamic republic since the start of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

"The crimes of the Zionist regime have crossed the red lines, and this may force everyone to take action," Mr. Raisi said on X, formerly Twitter, on Sunday.

"Washington asks us to not do anything, but they keep giving widespread support to Israel," he said.

"Iran considers it its duty to support the resistance groups," the Iranian President said in an interview with Al Jazeera on Saturday according to excerpts released by IRNA.

Thousands break into aid warehouses in Gaza territory

Warehouse break-ins are a worrying sign that civil order is starting to break, says UN official; Israel says it struck over 450 militant targets over the past 24 hours including Hamas command centres

Associated Press
GAZA STRIP

Thousands of people broke into aid warehouses in Gaza to take flour and basic hygiene products, a UN agency said, in a mark of growing desperation and the breakdown of public order three weeks into the war between Israel and Gaza's militant Hamas rulers.

Tanks and infantry pushed into Gaza over the weekend as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced a "second stage" in the war, which was ignited by Hamas' brutal October 7 incursion into Israel. Israel also pounded the territory from air, land and sea.

Gaza's Health Ministry said the death toll among Palestinians has passed 8,000 – mostly women and minors. It's a toll without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian violence, and it is expected to climb even more rapidly. Over 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during the initial Hamas onslaught.

War fallout: A cloud of smoke rising from the Gaza Strip amid the ongoing battles between Israel and Hamas on Sunday. AFP

Communications were restored to much of Gaza early on Sunday.

The Israeli military said on Sunday it had struck over 450 militant targets over the past 24 hours, including Hamas command centres and anti-tank missile launching positions. It said more ground forces were sent into Gaza overnight.

The warehouse break-ins were "a worrying sign that civil order is starting to break down after three weeks of war and a tight siege on Gaza," said Thomas White, Gaza director for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

Juliette Touma, a spokesperson for the agency, said the crowds broke into four facilities on Saturday.

Israeli authorities said that they would soon allow more humanitarian aid to enter Gaza, though details remained unclear.

Israel must protect Gaza civilians, says White House

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Israel must protect innocent Gaza residents by distinguishing between Hamas militants and civilians in the Palestinian territory, the White House said.

"There is a burden, as I said before and as the President has said, on Israel to take the necessary steps to distinguish between Hamas, who does not represent the Palestinian people, and innocent Palestinian civilians" in Gaza, U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on CNN talk show "State of the Union."

"We do believe that thousands of Palestinian civilians have been killed in this bombardment, and every single one of those deaths is a tragedy," just as those in Israel are, Mr. Sullivan said.

Xi-Biden meeting run-up not going to be smooth: China

Associated Press
BEIJING

Wang Yi

China's Foreign Minister considers that the road to an expected meeting between President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden would not be "smooth-sailing" and that both sides must work together to achieve results.

Wang Yi met with Mr. Biden, as well as Secretary of State Antony Blinken and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, during a three-day visit to Washington. Both sides agreed to work toward a bilateral meeting at the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum summit in San Francisco in November.

In a statement released by China's Foreign Ministry on Sunday, Mr. Wang said that the road to the bilateral meeting would not be "smooth sailing" and that they could not rely on "autopilot" to make it happen.

Mr. Wang also said that China and the U.S. needed a "return to Bali," in a reference to Mr. Xi and Mr. Biden's previous meeting at a G-20 summit last year, where both officials discussed issues relating to Taiwan, U.S.-China trade tensions as well as cooperation to address issues like climate change, health and food security.

Trump vows to reimpose 'travel ban' on Muslims

Agence France-Presse
LAS VEGAS

Donald Trump used a speech at a Republican Jewish convention on Saturday to promise the reimposition of a controversial travel ban that targeted a slew of mostly Muslim countries if he gets re-elected.

"We will keep radical Islamic terrorists the hell out of our country," Mr. Trump told the audience attending the annual summit of the Republican Jewish Coalition. "You remember the travel ban? On day one I will restore our travel ban."

At the start of his presidency in 2017, Mr. Trump imposed sweeping restrictions on the entry of travellers from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen and, initially, Iraq and Sudan.

U.S. President Joe Biden reversed the ban in his first week in office in 2021.

Mr. Trump told the event, held in Las Vegas, in the southwestern state of Nevada, that he would "defend our friend and ally in the State of Israel like nobody has ever."

Pence drops out

Former Vice President Mike Pence surprised the gathering Saturday when he announced he was dropping out of the 2024 presidential race, becoming the first major candidate to suspend his campaign.

"It's become clear to me: this is not my time," he said. "After much prayer and consideration, I have decided to suspend my campaign for president."

Bangladesh charges Opposition party leadership with murder

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladesh's main Opposition leader and more than 100 other top party members were charged on Sunday with the murder of a policeman killed in demonstrations that have erupted ahead of upcoming elections.

"At least 164 Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) including Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir were accused of murdering the police officer," police official Salahuddin Mia said, adding that charges had been filed against them.

Those being charged make up the bulk of the BNP leadership, and potentially face up to a death penalty if they are found guilty.

Mr. Alamgir, 75, the BNP's secretary-general,

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir

has led the party since BNP chairwoman and two-time former Premier Khaleda Zia was arrested and jailed, and her son went into exile in Britain.

Dhaka police commissioner Habibur Rahman had earlier said Mr. Alamgir had been "detained for interrogation" for Saturday's violence in which a police officer and a protester were killed, and at least 26 police ambulances were torched or damaged.

The police on Saturday said the officer had been hacked to death and accused BNP activists of the killing.

String of protests

The resurgent Opposition has been mounting protests against the Prime Minister for months, despite ailing leader Ms. Zia being effectively under house arrest since her release from prison after a conviction on corruption charges.

Saturday's protests by BNP and the largest Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami, were among the biggest this year, and marked a new phase in their campaigning, with a general election due before the end of January.

Protests continued on Sunday in multiple locations.

Chinese party delegation visits Solomon Islands

Reuters
BEIJING

The trip comes a week before Australia Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is set to visit Beijing

A Chinese communist party delegation has visited the Solomon Islands, calling the "flourishing" cooperation between China and the Pacific nation a show of how diplomatic ties were in their peoples' interest. The delegation led by the deputy head of the international department under China's Communist Party central committee, Guo Yezhou, met Solomon Islands' Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare during a visit spanning from Friday to Sunday. The delegation also met the Foreign Minister and the Energy Minister.

China had signed a policing pact with the Solomon Islands in July, as both countries upgraded their ties to a "comprehensive strategic partnership" when Mr. Sogavare met Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Beijing.

China's visit to the southern Pacific archipelago comes a week before Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is set to visit Beijing.

In June, Mr. Sogavare called for a review of its security treaty with Australia, which has historically provided policing support to the Solomon Islands.

UN chief Guterres meets Nepal Prime Minister Prachanda

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday called on Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' after arriving here on first official visit to the Himalayan nation.

Mr. Guterres also held separate meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Purna Bahadur Khadka and Foreign Minister Narayan Prakash Saud.

In a post on X, Nepal's Prime Minister's office said a meeting was held between Prachanda and Mr. Guterres, who is here on an official visit to Nepal at the friendly invitation of the Prime Minister.

Forging ties: Antonio Guterres, right, speaks to the media as Prachanda listens to him in Kathmandu on Sunday. REUTERS

Mr. Guterres said that the transitional justice process in Nepal that the government is trying to conclude must help bring peace to victims, families and communities.

Addressing the media after meeting Prime Minister Prachanda, the UN chief pledged the world body's support to Nepal to develop a process that meets international standards, the Supreme Court's rulings, and the needs of victims – and to put it into practice, *My Republica* newspaper reported.

Vulnerable country

In a joint press briefing with Prime Minister Prachanda, the UN chief urged developed countries to increase support to countries like Nepal that are hard-hit by the impacts of climate change.

"Nepal is also caught in a blizzard of global crises not of its making: the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, and the enormous threat posed by climate chaos," he said.

He said that much more international action is needed. The developed countries must step up to support sustainable development, and help developing economies, including Nepal, to tackle the climate crisis, he said.

Mr. Guterres arrived here in the wee hours of Sunday on a four-day official visit.

The UN chief is accompanied by Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean Pierre Lacroix, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations to Nepal Hanaa Singer-Hamdy and other officials.

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No	E-Tender ID	Items
1.	2023_KMML_613836_1	For the supply of Steam Condensate Recovery System-1 ST
2.	2023_KMML_612505_1	Design,Engineering,Procurement,supply erection, testing and commissioning of one new booster compressor for Nitrogen gas at TP Unit of KMML
3.	2023_KMML_615723_1	For fabrication & supply of Tickle Condenser (Methanol Chiller)
4.	2023_KMML_615262_1	For the supply of Power Transformer
5.	2023_KMML_615439_1	For the supply of SS Pipe
6.	2023_KMML_615771_1	For the supply of Class 1 Brick Acid Resistant for Acid Storage Tanks
7.	2023_KMML_615943_1	For the supply of GRP Pipe Fittings

Chavara. 27.10.2023 Sd/ Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

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BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED
(A Mini Ratna Company)
(A subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav G20
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All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of BCCL **www.bcclweb.in**, Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in.
*This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

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Contract No	CMRL/BD/SNR/2023/490/06
Tender 02:	Tender for Licensing of Advertisement Rights in inside Metro Station along with Semi-Naming Rights on selected 7 Metro Stations of Corridor I of Phase 1 Extension
Contract No	CMRL/BD/SNR-E/2023/490/03
Documents downloaded from	e- tendering website **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**

The above tender (01&02) documents downloaded from **31.10.2023 17:00 Hrs** through e-tendering website **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**
For due date of Bid submission, date of Bid opening and complete details, please visit e-procurement website: **http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.** The tender will continue in rolling basis. Prospective bidders are required to periodically check the e-procurement website to know the currently available inventories. The available inventories will be updated till the process will continue till award of all stations for semi-naming licensing. Any Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on above mentioned website and will not be published in newspapers.
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Chief General Manager (P&BD), Chennai Metro Rail Limited, MetroS, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.
Phone - 044-2437 8000 / www.chennaimetrorail.org. E-mail: krishnan.rm@cmrl.in
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Chief General Manager (P&BD)
Chennai Metro Rail Limited

Make sure your SIP doesn't slip

THINKINVESTOR

The recent cap on tenure of SIPs to 30 years should not impact your investments as your intermediate goals will have a time horizon of less than 30 years

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Starting October 1, you can set up a systematic investment plan (SIP) in a mutual fund for a maximum of 30 years. Earlier, you could set up SIPs without an end date (perpetuity). In this article, we look at whether this revision will impact your goal-based investments.

Managing regret

Each time you make an investment in an equity fund or an exchange-traded fund, there is a possibility that you might regret the decision in the future. Why? The stock market could decline immediately after you make an investment. SIP is an investment process that helps you manage regret by distancing yourself from an investment decision. This is possible because SIPs are set up as auto-debits from your savings account.

What should be the tenure of your SIPs? Your SIP in index funds must align with the time horizon for your life goal. For instance, if the time horizon for a goal is 10 years, then the SIP in an index fund must be set up for 10 years. Your SIP in an active fund for your goal-based investments must be set up for 12 months, whatever be the time horizon for your life goal.

This is because your objective of investing in an active fund is to earn greater returns than the fund's benchmark index (called alpha). You must, therefore, check if the fund has earned positive alpha each year before you renew the SIP for another 12 months.

It is from this perspective that you must consider the recent rule relating to the tenure cap on SIPs. The revision should not impact your investment process. Why? Your intermediate goals such as buying a house and funding your children's education will have a time horizon of less than 30 years. Typically, retirement portfolio would carry a time horizon of more than 30 years, but only if the SIP on an index fund is set up immediately upon the start of one's career.

Conclusion

Setting up long tenure SIPs could have one issue – your bank account linked to the SIP. What if you do not operate the bank account through the tenure of the SIP? To ensure that your SIP mandate is continually fulfilled, it is important that you maintain a separate savings account to manage your investments in equity funds and recurring deposits. Call this your master investment account. It is a savings account that you should maintain preferably till you retire. This account must be funded with auto-debits from your salary account every month.

(The author offers training programme for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

What you need to know about passive funds

In passive funds, performance as such is not a criterion. A passive fund is meant to just follow the index and the fund manager does not take any independent decision in managing the portfolio

ACTIVE VS PASSIVE

Joydeep Sen

For quite some time, there is a debate going on between active mutual fund schemes and passive ones. There is a shift happening in favour of passive funds. The argument is that actively managed funds charge a relatively higher expense ratio to the fund. If a fund is not performing better than the benchmark index, then the management cost is not justified. The investor would rather buy the reference index – not literally, but through a passive fund. This article is not about that debate as to which one is better. This is about sensitisation on certain concepts relevant to investment in passive funds.

Return expectation

To be noted, a passively managed fund would never perform better than the reference index, as it will simply track it. Rather, returns from passive funds would be marginally lower than the reference benchmark index.

This is due to three reasons: First, there would be expenses charged to the fund: though much lower than active ones, it would make your returns that much lower than the index. Secondly, there would be a tracking error, impacting your returns;

Thirdly, if it is an usual open-ended fund where purchase-redemption is available with the mutual fund, and not an exchange traded fund (ETF), there would be a small cash component in the fund to meet redemptions. When the market is booming, this component would yield relatively less than the reference index.

Tracking error

In a passive fund, the mandate of the fund is to follow the index i.e. construct a portfolio that replicates the reference benchmark index. As an example, if it is Nifty50 or Sensex, the passive fund will buy the same stocks as in the index, in the same proportion. However, small deviations do happen. There is a metric called tracking error, which looks at the extent to which returns have deviated from the benchmark index. Obviously, the lower the tracking error, the better. To get the basics of what is tracking error, (1) it measures to what extent the returns of your fund has deviated from the underlying index and (2) statistically, tracking error is defined as the annualised standard deviation of the difference in returns between the index fund and its corresponding index.

Since it is standard deviation, the output is a positive number. Lower the number, better for you as an investor as it indicates your fund is tracking the index that much closely. An index fund manager needs to calculate his/her tracking error on a daily basis, especially if it is an open-ended fund with daily purchase / redemptions and need to re-adjust the portfolio.

If you want to know, over a period of time, to what extent returns from your fund is lower than the index, you simply have to compare the returns. As an example, if the index has delivered 10% over your investment period and the fund has yielded 9.9%, then 0.1% is the tracking difference. To be noted, tracking difference is a simple measure, just the difference in returns, which you can calculate. Tracking error is a statistical measure calculated and disseminated by the mutual fund.

Fund format

There are exchange traded dunds (ETFs) that are listed at the exchange i.e. NSE/ BSE. Post the new fund offer (NFO) period, you can purchase an ETF only at the exchange, and not from the mutual fund. When you want to sell it off, you can sell only at the exchange. You require a demat account and a trading account with a stock broker, for purchase/sale. These days, it can be done seamlessly, online. Only that, when you want to sell, there should be buyers at the exchange, otherwise you will have to suffer on the price.

What you have to be mindful of in an ETF is, the price at which you buy or sell would be different from the NAV of the fund. For the quoted or traded price at the exchange, while the NAV is the reference point, there may be significant differences as people are free to buy-sell at any price.

Then there are funds, not ETFs, which follow the relevant index and you can purchase/redeem with the mutual fund. You do not require any trading account with a stock broker, and demat account is not compulsory. In this format, liquidity is better for you, as you can redeem with the mutual fund anytime you want, at the NAV.

Fund selection

Usually, we select funds with performance as one of the criteria. In passive funds, performance as such is not a criterion. A passive fund is meant to just follow the index and the fund manager does not take any independent decision in managing the portfolio. Rather, to evaluate passive funds, you look at tracking error or tracking difference. Tracking is the gauge of efficiency for passive funds – how closely it is tracking the index, what it is supposed to do.

For ETFs, you may check liquidity at the exchange, that will give you a clue that when you want to sell, what the situation might be. For the 'normal' funds, ones you buy/sell with the MF, you may refer to fund corpus size. That gives you a clue, how many investors have reposed their faith in that fund, and if there is a sudden redemption pressure, how comfortable they may be to create that much liquidity.

Index selection

This is the crux of it. Selection between one passive fund and another can only make a marginal difference to your returns. The index you select will make a bigger difference. There is no one-line answer as to which index would give higher returns or which index is better for you. This is an area where you would do better to seek professional advice, from an advisor.

(The writer is a corporate trainer - financial markets - and author)

What you see is not what you get

COVERNOTE

Everyone wants health insurance. It's the answer to rising healthcare costs, but it raises more questions than it resolves

K. Nitya Kalyani

More than life insurance, Indians seek health insurance. With high-visibility marketing, the confluence of demand and supply is paying off. This is an established and steadily upward trend in sale of health insurance in the last two decades and more.

But, to quote a recent survey by NITI Aayog, only 18% of individuals in urban areas and 14% in rural areas have any form of health insurance coverage. Better than before, but, as school reports would say, 'can do better'.

Health insurance is not a one-size-fits-all. The market is clearly segmented as mass insurance under social welfare schemes of governments, employer provided group insurance, and the individual health insurance that you and I buy. The first two are free or close to free to the beneficiaries. And within each there is a range of covers, costs, caveats....

Two reasons come to mind why more individuals aren't buying health insurance. I am leaving out a significant chunk who aren't eligible for the below poverty line free mass insurance, but cannot afford commercial insurance premium.

Those that can, but don't, are either confused by what's on offer and what suits them, or are victims of the 'broken promises' syndrome that dogs most insurance, especially this variety. A hospitalisation policy does not cover every type of hospitalisation. When it does, it does not cover the entire extent of the expenditure, pays some bills and not others, pays some bills fully and others partially and so on. Inefficient and/or uncaring and impersonal claims settlement processes amplify the syndrome.

In short, in hospitalisation insurance, what you see is not what you get. The selling process does not always add clarity because we, as customers, don't ask the right questions or all the questions simply because we don't know.

So, if you urgently want to buy health insurance what do you choose? An imperfect solution is to buy the standardised hospitalisation policy simply because some coverage is better than no coverage. Every company offers it by mandate and you will recognise it by the name 'XYZ Insurance Company Arogya Sanjeevani Policy'. Please compare premium rates across companies because that will vary.

This is only the first step. Start your research and port to a better suited policy with the same company or another by the time the renewal rolls around.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Highest Slab	Interest Rates (%) 1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.75	8.00	7.25
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.50	7.15	7.10
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.20	8.00	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.50	6.00	6.75	6.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	8.51	7.50	8.00	8.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	8.50	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.60	6.85	8.60	8.25
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	7.20	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	8.50	7.50
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.10	6.70	7.10	7.00
Bandhan Bank	7.85	7.25	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	7.00	6.75	6.50	6.25
CSB Bank	7.35	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	6.25	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	7.90	7.15	7.60	7.40
Federal Bank	7.40	6.80	6.60	6.60
HDFC Bank	7.20	6.60	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.10	6.70	7.00	7.00
IDFC First Bank	7.50	6.50	7.25	7.00
IndusInd Bank	7.85	7.50	7.25	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.10	7.10	6.50	6.50
Karnataka Bank	7.25	6.95	6.50	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.50	7.00	7.00	6.50
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.25	7.10	6.50	6.20
Nainital Bank	7.05	6.70	6.25	5.75
RBL Bank	7.80	7.00	7.10	7.10
SBM Bank India	7.75	7.05	7.30	7.75
South Indian Bank	7.20	6.60	6.50	6.00
Tamilnad Mercantile	7.00	7.00	6.50	6.50
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.25	6.75	7.25	6.50
Bank of India	7.25	6.50	6.50	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.00	6.50	6.25	6.00
Canara Bank	7.25	6.90	6.80	6.70
Central Bank of India	7.15	6.75	6.50	6.25
Indian Bank	7.25	6.10	6.25	6.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.25	6.50	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	7.25	6.75	7.00	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.40	6.40	6.00	6.00
State Bank of India	7.10	6.80	6.50	6.50
Union Bank of India	7.00	6.30	6.50	6.70

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	8.40-10.15	8.40-10.05	8.40-10.05
Bank of Baroda	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.90
Union Bank of India	8.40-10.80	8.40-10.95	8.40-10.95
Punjab National Bank	8.55-10.25	8.50-10.15	8.50-10.15
UCO Bank	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30
Bank of Maharashtra	8.50-11.15	8.50-11.15	8.50-11.15
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00
Indian Overseas Bank*	8.85**	8.85**	8.85**
Central Bank of India	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.70**	8.70**	8.70**
ICICI Bank	9.00-9.80	9.00-9.95	9.00-10.05
Axis Bank	9.00-13.30	9.00-13.30	9.00-9.40
HSBC Bank	8.45**	8.45**	8.45**
South Indian Bank	9.57-10.97	9.57-10.77	9.57-11.42
Karur Vysya Bank	9.23-10.73	9.23-10.73	9.23-10.73
Karnataka Bank	8.75-10.43	8.75-10.43	8.75-10.43
Federal Bank	8.80**	8.80**	8.80**
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	9.45-9.95	9.45-9.95	9.45-9.95
Bandhan Bank	9.15-15.00	9.15-13.32	9.15-13.32
RBL Bank	9.15-11.55	9.10-11.30	9.10-11.30
CSB Bank	11.27-13.12	11.27-13.12	11.27-13.12
HDFC Bank Ltd.	8.50 - 10.20	8.50 - 10.20	8.50 - 10.20
City Union Bank	12.25 - 14.00	12.75 - 14.50	13.25 - 14.75
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.50-10.35	8.50-10.55	8.50-10.75
Tata Capital	8.70**	8.70**	8.70**
PNB Housing Finance	8.50-14.50	8.50-11.45	8.50-11.45
GIC Housing Finance	8.80**	8.80**	8.80**
Repco Home Finance	9.50**	9.50**	9.50**
Aditya Birla Capital	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75
ICICI Home Finance	9.20**	9.20**	9.20**
Godrej Housing Finance	8.55**	8.55**	8.55**

*Interest rate for fresh housing loans now start from 8.40% p.a. (only fresh loans) for salaried and non-salaried borrowers irrespective of the loan amount
**Onwards
Rates as on October 25 **Source:Paisabazaar.com**

IN MEMORY

Rohit's men wear black armbands, pay respect to Bishan Singh Bedi

K.R. DEEPAK

The Indian cricket team on Sunday wore black armbands during their World Cup clash against England. "Team India will be wearing Black Armbands today in memory of the legendary Bishan Singh Bedi who passed away on 23rd October, 2023," the BCCI said in a statement shortly after the commencement of the contest here.

WICKETS APLENTY

Sizzling Shami pulls level with Starc for most four-fors in WCs

K.R. DEEPAK

Mohammad Shami equalled Mitchell Starc for most four-wicket (or more) hauls in the ODI World Cup with his fourth four-wicket haul. He also has two five-fors (5/69 vs England, 2019; 5/54 vs New Zealand, 2023). The speedster's four-fors came against Pakistan (2015), Afghanistan (2019), West Indies (2019) and England (2023).

FALLING APART

England loses four wickets in the PowerPlay for the second time

K.R. DEEPAK

England (40 for four) lost four wickets for just the second time in the PowerPlay in the 50-over ODI World Cup. The other instance was during its match against South Africa earlier in this edition in Mumbai (67 for four). The Englishmen also recorded their lowest ODI World Cup total against India after being bowled out for 129.

SPOTLIGHT

de Leede demands ICC's attention for 'bigger nation' status

RITU RAJ KONWAR

Two upset wins in the ongoing World Cup under their belt, 'minnows' Netherlands have now called for ICC's attention for "bigger nation" status, batting all-rounder Bas de Leede has said. "We want to try and get the ICC's attention to start looking at us as a potentially bigger nation in the coming years. So definitely every win helps."

India wallops England to continue its majestic march

Captain Rohit's 87 the cornerstone as the Men in Blue post a competitive total on a sluggish surface before Shami and Bumrah rock the top-order to push England to a 100-run defeat

ODI WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
LUCKNOW

In the sprawling Gangetic Plains, India's fertile run in the current World Cup continued unhindered. At the Ekana Stadium here on Sunday, the Men in Blue notched their sixth win on the trot, defending 229 for nine with tigerish zeal and keeping it well beyond England's grasp. India bowled out the visitors for 129 in 34.5 overs and won by 100 runs.

During the chase, England fired its initial volleys through Dawid Malan's six and four off Mohammed Siraj. Soon, from the other end, Siraj's partner Jasprit Bumrah extracted vengeance, getting one to nip back and the delivery brushed Malan's blade and crashed into the stumps. The spearhead got the next one to tail into Joe Root's pads and these twin blows left the visitors gasping at the crease.

Mohammed Shami (four for 22) then joined the wicket-taking act. He tied down Ben Stokes, who got tangled in a play-and-miss routine, and the batter's quest for relief with an expansive shot left his citadel exposed. The 'rattling timber' routine got even better when Shami scalped Jonny Bairstow. The ball whispered to the bat before spelling the death knell to the stumps.

With England reduced to 39 for four, its progress became grimmer by the minute as Kuldeep Yadav spun a web. He found England captain Jos Buttler rooted in the crease. Instantaneously the stumps quivered and India got busy signing its supremacy on another feverish night while the rival batters departed as if in a tearing rush to catch the local tube back home.

In the afternoon, Rohit Sharma's men, after five triumphant chasing endeavours in this World Cup, got an opportunity to bat first as Buttler won the toss and elected to field. David Willey bowled a maiden over to Rohit but once Shubman Gill punched Chris Woakes and the Indian captain slammed a four and six of Willey, normal service seemed to have resumed.

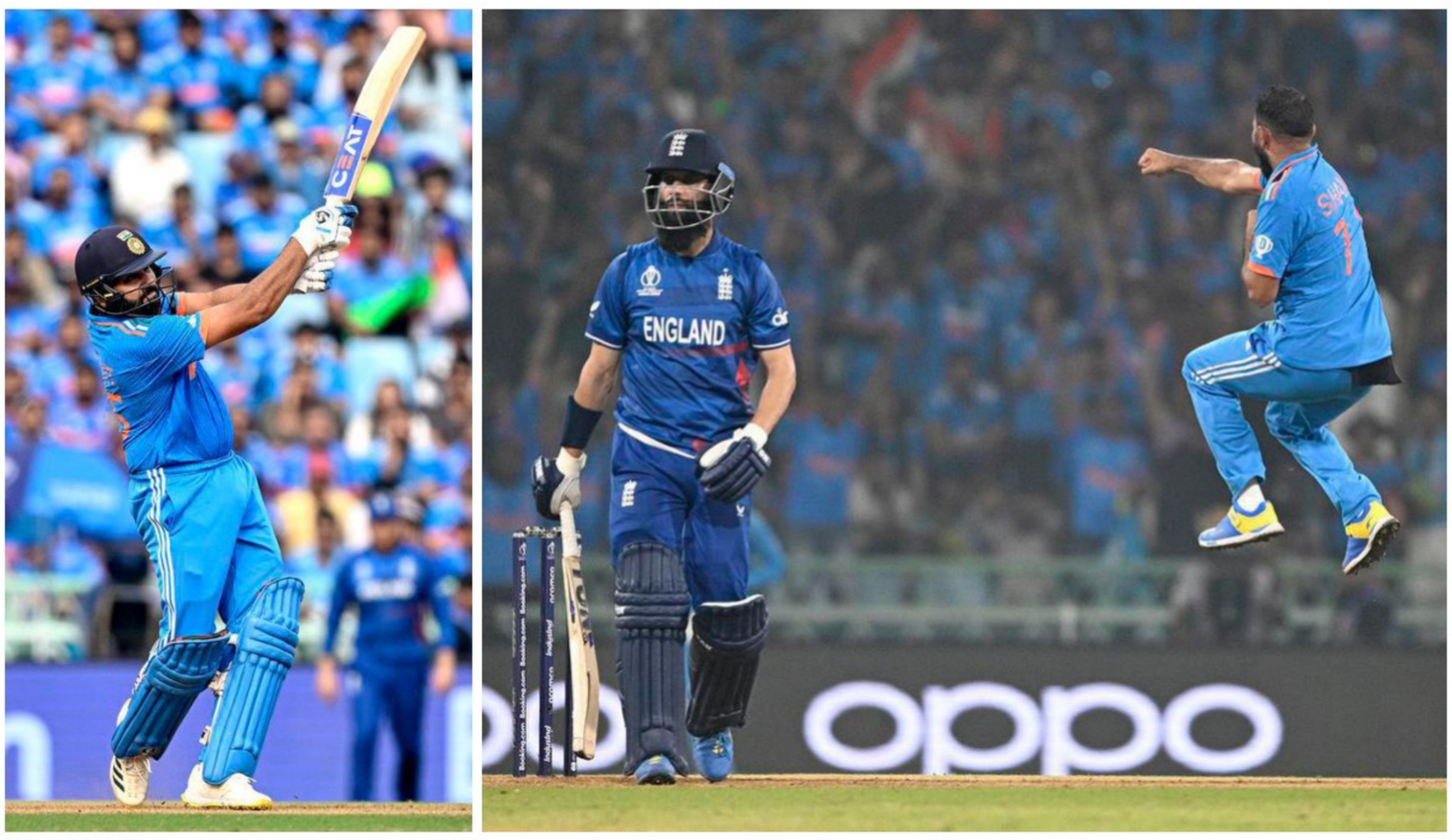
However, Woakes darted one in and castled Gill. The ground lapsed into a millisecond of shock before throwing up a massive roar to greet Virat Kohli. An eerie silence, however, returned a few overs later as the master batter miscued a lofted shot off Willey. With Kohli out for a blob and the England seamers bowling tight, India slipped into a barren phase on a sluggish pitch.

It got worse when Shreyas Iyer mistimed a pull and fell to Woakes. At 40 for three, India found sustenance through Rohit and K.L. Rahul. The Indian skipper survived an lbw distraction on 33, earning a successful review against Mark Wood. He then swept the spinners Adil Rashid and Liam Livingstone, using the conventional and reverse methods, flicked a stunning six off Wood and lofted Moeen Ali for four.

Rahul tucked into Livingstone before succumbing to Willey and that terminated the 91-run fourth-wicket partnership.

Just as Rohit and Suryakumar Yadav forged a bond, the skipper (87, 101b, 10x4, 3x6) holed out in the deep against Rashid. It was left to Suryakumar (49) and the tail to rustle up some handy runs.

This cumulative yield proved to be the distant horizon that England could never reach.



Key contributors: Rohit's class came to the fore on a difficult pitch. *Right:* Shami's joy finds no bounds after nailing Moeen caught behind. K.R. DEEPAK

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Rohit Sharma c Livingstone b Adil Rashid 87 *(101b, 10x4, 3x6)*, Shubman Gill b Woakes 9 *(13b, 1x4)*, Virat Kohli c Stokes b Willey 0 *(9b)*, Shreyas Iyer c Wood b Woakes 4 *(16b)*, K.L. Rahul c Bairstow b Willey 39 *(58b, 3x4)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Woakes b Willey 49 *(47b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Ravindra Jadeja lbw b Adil Rashid 8 *(13b)*, Mohammed Shami c Buttler b Wood 1 *(5b)*, Jasprit Bumrah run out 16 *(25b, 1x4)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 9 *(13b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-4, w-3): 7; Total (for nine wkts. in 50 overs): 229.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-26 (Gill, 3.6 overs), 2-27 (Kohli, 6.5), 3-40 (Shreyas, 11.5), 4-131 (Rahul, 30.2), 5-164 (Rohit, 36.5), 6-182 (Jadeja, 40.3), 7-183 (Shami, 41.2), 8-208 (Suryakumar, 46.2), 9-229 (Bumrah, 49.6).

ENGLAND BOWLING
Willey 10-2-45-3, Woakes 9-1-33-2, Adil Rashid 10-0-35-2, Wood 9-1-46-1, Livingstone 4-1-29-0, Moeen 8-0-37-0.

ENGLAND
Jonny Bairstow b Shami 14 *(23b, 2x4)*, Dawid Malan b Bumrah 16 *(17b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Joe Root lbw b Bumrah 0 *(1b)*, Ben Stokes b Shami 0 *(10b)*, Jos Buttler b Kuldeep 10 *(23b, 1x4)*, Moeen Ali c Rahul b Shami 15 *(31b)*, Liam Livingstone lbw b Kuldeep 27 *(46b, 2x4)*, Chris Woakes st. Rahul b Jadeja 10 *(20b, 1x4)*, David Willey (not out) 16 *(17b, 2x6)*, Adil Rashid b Shami 13 *(20b, 2x4)*, Mark Wood b Bumrah 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-6): 8; Total (in 34.5 overs): 129.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-30 (Malan, 4.5), 2-30 (Root, 4.6), 3-33 (Stokes, 7.6), 4-39 (Bairstow, 9.1), 5-52 (Buttler, 15.1), 6-81 (Moeen, 23.1), 7-98 (Woakes, 28.1), 8-98 (Livingstone, 29.2), 9-122 (Rashid, 33.6).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 6.5-1-32-3, Siraj 6-0-33-0, Shami 7-2-22-4, Kuldeep 8-0-24-2, Jadeja 7-1-16-1.

Toss: England; **PoM:** Rohit.
India won by 100 runs.

Next assignment

INDIA: November 2 vs. **Sri Lanka,** *Mumbai, 2 p.m.*

ENGLAND: November 4 vs. **Australia,** *Ahmedabad, 2 p.m.*

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
India	6	6	0	12	1.405
South Africa	6	5	1	10	2.032
New Zealand	6	4	2	8	1.232
Australia	6	4	2	8	0.970
Sri Lanka	5	2	3	4	-0.205
Pakistan	6	2	4	4	-0.387
Afghanistan	5	2	3	4	-0.969
Netherlands	6	2	4	4	-1.277
Bangladesh	6	1	5	2	-1.338
England	6	1	5	2	-1.652

We knew on this surface 230 could be defended: Kuldeep

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
LUCKNOW

Kuldeep Yadav felt at home in the Ekana Stadium and England paid the price. The spinner, with roots in Uttar Pradesh, found purchase from the track and his two for 24 proved crucial in India's 100-run triumph over the rivals here in the World Cup game.

"It feels good to bowl at home. There was spin but there was also the dew factor. It was all about bowling the right lengths. I did well but, more importantly, the team won and that gives me joy," Kuldeep told the media on Sunday night.

Asked about India's 229, Kuldeep replied, "We knew on this surface a target of 230 can be defended. Rohit *bhai* played a good knock. It was all about getting two wickets in the PowerPlay which Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami did. Then they were four down and it becomes difficult. As a spinner, I just had to maintain that pressure on England."

Doomed: Rashid plays all over a Shami delivery to have his stumps in disarray. K.R. DEEPAK

Earlier, with India losing wickets, the tail did come into play and Kuldeep had his views: "We practise batting at the nets. It would be nice if individually we can contribute 15 to 20 runs and stitch partnerships. We are not regular batters and we don't think like them so if there are two dot balls then we do feel the pressure. It was good that we scored a few today."

As for England's decline, Kuldeep explained: "They are a fantastic team and changed the way the game is played over the last few years. All teams tend to have these low phases. As for us, we just want to play good cricket and not think too much about the opposition."

Not now

And regarding the semifinals, Kuldeep countered: "We have another three league games and we can think about the semifinals and who we will play against later."

India becomes No. 2 in World Cup wins

Lalith Kalidas
CHENNAI

India surpassed New Zealand (58) with its 59th win to become the second-most successful team in the ODI World Cups, only behind Australia (73 wins).

England equalled Australia (from 1992) for the most defeats by a defending champion in a World Cup edition with its fourth loss in six games.

Virat Kohli (32nd innings), Joe Root (22nd innings) and Ben Stokes (14th innings) recorded their first World Cup ducks in the match. Kohli and Root marked the first instance of both no. 3 batters being dismissed for nought in a World Cup game.

Rohit Sharma's 66-ball fifty is his slowest since December 2019. He has struck 14 fifty-plus scores since then.

Rohit is now joint-second on the list for most ODI World Cup fifty-plus scores - 12. Sachin Tendulkar leads with 21 such scores.

Kohli also equalled Tendulkar (34) for most ducks while batting in the top seven in international cricket.

Bumrah. K.R. DEEPAK

Rohit Sharma became the fifth Indian to complete 18000 international runs behind Tendulkar, Kohli, Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly.

Rohit Sharma completed 1000 ODI runs in 2023, the third player to reach the mark behind Shubman Gill and Pathum Nissanka.

India reached its fifty in 14.2 overs, the slowest among all teams batting first in this World Cup.

Coach Mott denies reports of rift in the England camp

One more down: Kuldeep exults after having Livingstone lbw for his second wicket. K.R. DEEPAK

Pranay Rajiv
LUCKNOW

Midway through its ODI World Cup match against India in Lucknow on Sunday, England knew it had more than half a chance after it pinned down the home side to 229.

But any hopes of a revival were quickly snuffed out by an efficient Indian bowling unit

England coach Mathew Mott, too, felt that a win was in sight after the way his team started off.

"I was really pleased at the halfway mark. I thought it was definitely our best bowling and fielding effort. And we went out to bat with a lot of positivity. But anytime you lose four for 10, you put yourself under pressure and it unravelled again from there," said Mott after the game.

This was England's fifth defeat in six games and with it, its hopes of defending the title it won at home in 2019 have all but ended, sparking rumours of a fractured dressing room.

"I think anyone that's inside our tent at the moment would say that despite our results, we're an incredibly tight-knit unit," said Mott.

England all-rounder Liam Livingstone, who top-scored for the side, opined that the pitch had nothing to do with the heavy defeat. "It was a difficult pitch. It was spinning a fair bit. I think it came on nicely for the seamers too. It got dewy too in the second innings. I don't think it was a horrendous pitch. Ultimately, we fell short," he said.

Afghanistan holds edge over Lanka

The spin-heavy bowling pack at Shahidi's disposal will be keen to continue the good work; Mendis' men will be eager to sustain the momentum

ODI WORLD CUP

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

At the start of the last month, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan were involved in a nail-biting contest in the preliminary round of the Asia Cup.

From being on the cusp of ousting Sri Lanka – and more importantly – progressing to the Super Four, a net run rate miscalculation resulted in Afghanistan's campaign coming to a halt.

Cut to Monday, and Hashmatullah Shahidi's Atalan army will hope to complete the unfinished business at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium. Despite both teams having many bright spots, Afghanistan will hold the edge.

On a high

After all, despite a week-long break, the team is on a high of defeating Pakistan – its fiercest rival – for the first in ODIs.

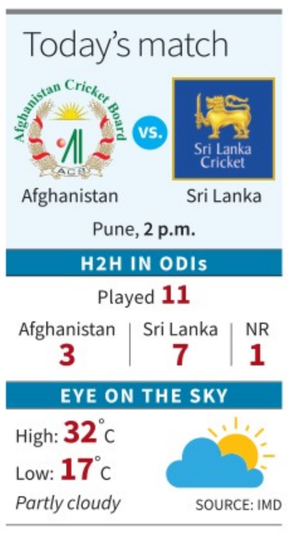
The spin-dominated bowling pack will be keen to continue the good work and end up on the winning side in a fast-evolving continental rivalry.

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, will be eager to prove that its win against the defending champion England was not an aberration. Despite losing the services of Lahiru Kumara – the Player-of-the-Match against England who hurt his thigh during training – the addition of seasoned Dushmantha Chameera as a replacement could well be a boon for the team. Chameera will be hoping to repeat Angelo Mathews' heroics against England and help Sri Lanka emerge as a strong contender for a top-four spot in the points table. Despite Afghanistan's unconventional spin troika having done the trick against Pakistan last week, a short boundary and the heavy impact of dew in the evenings may result in the side opting for just two spinners.

It will be interesting to see how the two Kusals – opener Perera and captain Mendis – combat the Afghanistan spin on the day.

The duel between these two and the spinners may decide the standalone No. 5 in the points table.

Padding up again: Rahmat, who guided Afghanistan to victory against Pakistan, will look to carry on the good work. M. VEDHAN



Afghanistan can win World Cup: Murali

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

Afghanistan's Fareed and Riaz... getting ready. M. VEDHAN

In a tournament that's been largely deprived of thrilling finishes, the Men's World Cup has thrown up many surprising results, with Afghanistan, Netherlands and Sri Lanka leading the pack. Muttiah Muralitharan, the legendary spinner, has insisted the smaller nations have proven their worth at the World Cup.

"Netherlands is the only one without Test status this time around. Afghanistan, with the talent they have, they can win the World Cup. That kind of a side they have, so that is not a surprise for anyone," Muralitharan, who is an ICC brand ambassador for its social cause with Unicef, said here on Sunday.

The surprise

"But the surprise was Netherlands because beating big teams in conditions much different than they are used to is creditable. They play in bouncy tracks and seaming, swinging tracks. Here it becomes a little flat and still beating the bigger sides, it means something special. I would like to say that if you can add more associated nations, it will be great for the tournament."

Muralitharan, a member of the 1996 World Cup-winning outfit, was in awe of Afghanistan and billed it a dark horse halfway into the tournament.

"They have one of the best bowling attacks, four spinners are unbelievable spinners because they are different. Farooqi and the fast bowlers are also very skilled and they have been picked in IPL teams," Muralitharan said.

"Batting-wise they have a powerful batting line-up because they just play very attacking cricket. That's the style that we played in 1996 when we won the World Cup."

It's difficult to stop injuries owing to playing a lot of games, says Mathews

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

All-rounders and injuries have emerged as the two sides of the same coin, especially in modern-day cricket. As a result, pace-bowling all-rounders are on the wane in top-flight cricket.

Angelo Mathews, the veteran Sri Lankan who has rediscovered his mojo as an all-rounder, has insisted on the need for all-rounders to manage excessive workload.

"The only all-rounder whom I can remember who didn't have any injuries was Jacques Kallis. He was just an extraordinary player. He was my idol as well. Due to playing so many games these days, it's really difficult to stop injuries," Mathews said ahead of Sri Lanka's key clash against Afghanistan.

"You have to sort of look after yourself, manage your workloads, and then hydration, recovery, everything. Everything comes into play but still you can get injured you know, so you just have to know your body. Once you get to know your body, you just have to manage yourself."

Pulling strings: Mathews was on the ball in the game against England. K. MURALI KUMAR

After joining the squad last week as a travelling reserve, Mathews was drafted in as Matheesha Pathirana's replacement. And the veteran made an immediate impact during Sri Lanka's win against defending champion England.

He had mixed feelings about his omission and call-up. "Cricket has taught me a lot over the last 15 years, and I tried to control what I can control, and I try to shut myself down from negativity," he said.

"I am not trying to prove anything to anyone. At the end of the day, it's an honour to represent your country and, at any given time, I take it as a challenge. I tried to use my experience over the last 15-16 years. I have played in India, it's a very tough place to play. And I try to enjoy every single moment."

Our aim is to go to the next round: Shahidi

The big roar: Shahidi and his men will have more belief after the remarkable win over Pakistan. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Sports Bureau
PUNE

It may have defeated arch-rival Pakistan for the first time in an ODI last week. It may have already performed at its best in a World Cup edition. Still, Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi reiterated that they are eyeing the big prize but not thinking too far ahead.

"Our aim and goal is to go to the next round. That's what we are thinking about. But right now, we are not thinking how to go to the semifinal," Shahidi said here on Sunday, ahead of its key clash against Sri Lanka.

"We think match by match and our mindset is busy in tomorrow's Sri Lanka game right now. Let's see what happens tomorrow. Then we will think about other games and moving forward to the semifinal."

While Shahidi did not reveal his bowling combination, he admitted that the fact that Afghanistan and Sri Lanka have played each other so often over the last 12 months across formats will make it a clash of the equals.

"It will be a tough challenge for both the teams. First of all, we [have] played a lot of cricket together from last one year and we know each other very well. And we both have won our last games coming into this game," he said. "We have more confidence from that game, so we will take that with us to the ground and we will try to go with a positive intent and play good cricket."

The Netherlands and the notes that come out of O'Dowd's pocket

P.K. Ajith Kumar

The Netherlands has demanded attention at the cricket World Cup. After stunning South Africa to register one of the World Cup's biggest upsets of all time, the Men in Orange, ranked lowest among the 10 teams, defeated Bangladesh on Saturday.

The sheet of paper that vice-captain Max O'Dowd often takes out of his pocket when they field has attracted a fair bit of attention too. So what is the story behind it?

Value addition: Vice-captain O'Dowd and skipper Edwards will be pleased with the utility of the former's pocket notes. AFP

'Best wicketkeeper'

Captain Scott Edwards, who, according to veteran India gloveman Dinesh Karthik, has been the best wicketkeeper at the World Cup, was asked that question by *The Hindu*. "But I don't have the greatest memory, so I don't know how it all began," he said. "I do a lot of the analysis work with [coach] Ryan [Cook] before the games and he is very good at it."

Story behind it

O'Dowd had a more detailed answer. "It began with a lot of the analysis work that we do and work on bowlers and batters," he said. "No, we haven't done it in notes before the World Cup, but it has been dramatised a little bit, because now every time I have notes in my pocket the camera zooms in on me. We do a lot of work on batters and we have match-ups written down that we think will work against certain batters."

It worked particularly well in the Netherlands' win against South Africa at Dharamshala. Remember the dismissal of Rassie van der Dussen, for instance?

"Well, we knew Rassie would try and reverse sweep, and it's one of his strengths," the opener said. "But we didn't think the plan would come off so fast. The notes are just there for us to kind of guide us."

So how did the notes find their way into his pocket and not anybody else's?

The messenger

"Well, somebody said the paper with the notes and I said that I would put it in my pocket," O'Dowd smiled. "It makes sense too, since I am always inside the ring. I just became the messenger."

Guardiola's men win Manchester derby

Agencies
MANCHESTER

Erling Haaland scored twice as Manchester City inflicted more pain on Manchester United with a 3-0 win at Old Trafford to close within two points of Premier League leader Tottenham.

Haaland slotted home from the penalty spot midway through the first half and headed in a second just after half-time before setting up Phil Foden for City's third.

In another match, goals from Diogo Jota, Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah gave Liverpool a comfortable 3-0 win over Nottingham Forest at Anfield on Sunday that lifted the Reds to 23 points, three behind leader Tottenham Hotspur.

For Diaz

Jota broke the deadlock in the 31st minute and celebrated by holding up the shirt of team mate Luis Diaz, who missed the game following the kidnapping of his parents in his native Colombia.

Liverpool's second sliced the Forest rearguard apart before Dominik Szoboszlai pulled the ball across the goal for Nunez to turn home. Salah rounded off the scoring in the 77th minute.

Manchester is Blue: Haaland opened the scoring with a clinical penalty kick and continued to dominate proceedings. AFP

The results:

Premier League: Wolves 2 (Lemina 36, Hwang Hee-Chan 71) drew with Newcastle United 2 (Wilson 22, 45+4-pen); West Ham United 0 lost to Everton 1 (Calvert-Lewin 51); Aston Villa 3 (McGinn 17, Diaby 49, Lockyer 62-og) bt Luton 1 (Martinez 83-og); Brighton 1 (Ferguson 26) drew with Fulham 1 (Palhinha 65); Liverpool 3 (Jota 31, Nunez 35, Salah 77) bt Nottingham Forest 0; Manchester United 0 lost to Manchester City 3 (Haaland 26-pen & 49, Foden 80).

LaLiga: Mallorca 0 drew with Getafe 0; Cadiz 2 (Chris Ramos 8, Machís 28) drew with Sevilla 2 (Ocampos 37, Rakitić 60); Betis 2 (Willian Jose 45+1, Isco 90+4) bt Osasuna 1 (Ruben García 85); Vallecano 2 (Mumin 31, Bebe 90+1) drew with Real Sociedad 2 (Mikel Oyarzabal 41 & 66-pen).

Serie A: Lecce 0 lost to Torino 1 (Buongiorno 41); Juventus 1 (Cambiaso 90+ 6) bt Verona 0; Cagliari 4 (Oristanio 72, Makoumbou 76, Pavoletti 90+4 & 90+ 6) bt Frosinone 3 (Malvano 23 & 37, Brescianini 49); Monza 1 (Colpani 27) drew with Udinese 1 (Lucca 66).

Bundesliga: Leipzig 6 (Werner 15-pen, Openda 40 & 45+3, Raum 43, Sesko 88, Baumgartner 90+ 1) bt Koln 0; Frankfurt 3 (Omar Marmoush 8-pen & 24, Chaibi 68) drew with Dortmund 3 (Sabitzer 45+ 1, Moukoko 54, Brandt 82).

THE HINDU GROUP
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CRICKET WORLD CUP
TRIVIA CHALLENGE
1. Who hit the most sixes (26) in the 2015 ODI World Cup?
2. Who was adjudged the man of the match in the 1992 World Cup Semi-final clash between England and South Africa?
3. Who took the first ODI World Cup hat-trick in 1987?
Visit bit.ly/wcteterms to read the Terms & Conditions.
Scan the QR code to participate in the quiz. Top 3 winners each day will win exciting gift vouchers
Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. 8
2. Yuzvendra Chahal
3. Andre Botha

INBRIEF

SA bests New Zealand for record fourth Rugby WC title

Handre Pollard kicked four penalties to help South Africa to a nail-biting 12-11 victory over 14-man New Zealand in the Rugby World Cup final in Paris on Saturday to claim a record fourth title.

Jacob and Shanmuga emerge the overall winners

K.J. Jacob (co-driver S.N. Shanmuga) emerged the overall winners of the Rally of Hyderabad, the fourth round of the Blueband Sports FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship (INRC) at Sanghi Nagar, Hyderabad, on Sunday. For Jacob, who made his debut in the INRC in 2016 at the K1000 Rally in Bengaluru, it was the first overall victory.

Provisional results: Overall: 1. K.J. Jacob & Shanmugh (Team Arka Motorsports) 1 hr, 54min, 29.2sec; 2. Vishakh Balachandran & Anil Abbas (1:55:18.0); 3. Arjun Rajiv & Rohit Gowda (1:55:28.7).
INRC: 1. Younus Ilyas (Kollam) & Nitin Jacob (Hyd) 1:57:35.5.
INRC 2: 1. Jacob & Shanmugha (1:54:29.2); 2. Ritesh Guttedar & M. Suraj (1:57:01.2); 3. Chetan Shivram & Shiv Prakash (1:58:02.9).

China's Lyu and Wu take honours in the XCE event

China's Lyu Xianjing and Wu Zhifan claimed the honours in the Cross Country Eliminator (XCE) event on the final day of the competition Asian Mountain Bike Championships on Sunday. The event comprises two laps on the 450m track with steep inclines and descends and is more of a sprint event.

The results (Cross Country Eliminator):
Men: 1. Lyu Xianjing (Chn), 2. Yuan Jinwei (Chn), 3. Riyad Hakim Bin Lukman (Sin).
Women: 1. Wu Zhifan (Chn), 2. Yang Maocuo, 3. Ya Yu Tsai (Tpe).

Elakkiyadasan, Sneha emerge the fastest

National men's 100m record-holder Manikanta suffers injury; Gulveer, Aadarsh, Seemas also strike gold; Srihari, Sajan break swimming records

Numero uno: Elakkiyadasan and Sneha signal their triumph. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NATIONAL GAMES

Stan Rayan
PANAJI

Manikanta Hoblidhar had a sensational run at the recent National Open in Bengaluru, improving his personal best with every round and finally taking the 100m gold with a new National record (10.23s).

But one saw a very different Manikanta in the 37th National Games at the Bambolim Athletics Stadium here on Saturday. The 22-year-old was in the lead at the half-mark mark but shortly after that he began limping a bit and finally finished fourth as Tamil Nadu's V.K. Elakkiyadasan grabbed the gold. "I pulled my hamstring," explained Manikanta.

The women's 100m also saw a big surprise with Karnataka's S.S. Sneha shocking Tamil Nadu's R. Giridharani, the National Open champion and the country's fastest this year, for the title.

Meanwhile, Asian Games 10,000m bronze medallist Gulveer Singh appeared to be in some trouble in the 5000m but he broke away from the pack with about 50m to go to take the gold.

In swimming, Karnataka's Srihari Nataraj (200m freestyle) and Kerala's Sajan Prakash (100m butterfly) broke meet records.

The results (winners only):
Athletics: Men: 100m: V.K. Elakkiyadasan (TN) 10.36s; **5000m:** Gulveer Singh (Ser) 14:13.03s; **high jump:** Aadarsh Ram (TN) 2.14m.
Women: 100m: S.S. Sneha (Kar) 11.45s; **10,000m:** Seema (HP) 33:20.75s; **discus throw:** Seema Punia (UP) 52.51m.
Swimming: Men: 200m freestyle: Srihari Nartaraj (Kar) 1:49.09s (MR); **100m butterfly:** Sajan Prakash (Ker) 53.79 (MR); **4x100m freestyle relay:** Karnataka 3:26.88 (MR).
Women: 200m: Dhinidhi Desinghu (Kar) 2:07.32s; **100m butterfly:** Nina Venkatesh (Kar) 1:02.22s (MR); **4x100m freestyle relay:** Karnataka 3:59.53s (MR).

SNAPSHOTS

Naraen and Isha shoot gold

CHANGWON (SOUTH KOREA): Naraen Pranav Suresh and Isha Taksale won the youth men and women's gold in air rifle in the 15th Asian shooting in Changwon, Korea, on Sunday.

Naraen shot 249.9 to beat Kim Junpyo of Korea by 0.9 point. Isha won with a big margin after shooting 252.7 in the final.

The results: Air rifle: Youth: Men: 1. Naraen Pranav Suresh 249.9 (618.6); 2. Kim Jupyo (Kor) 249.0 (623.1); 3. Lee Junhwan (Kor) 228.0 (625.2). **Youth women:** 1. Isha Taksale 252.7 (629.3); 2. Yu Jiaxin (Chn) 249.7 (629.9); 3. Chen Wenjing (Chn) 228.9 (626.9). **Team:** 1. China 1886.9; 2. Korea 1880.1; 3. India 1874.4.

25m rapid fire pistol: Junior team: 1. China 1736; 2. India 1721; 3. Korea 1719.

50m rifle prone: Men: 1. Konstantin Malinovskiy (Kaz) 625.6; 2. Parray Zahid Husain 624.5; 3. Du Linshu (Chn) 624.3.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Sathish and Isharani claim singles crowns

Sathish Kumar and Isharani Baruah emerged the men's and women's singles champions respectively at the Infosys Foundation India International Challenge badminton tournament here on Sunday.
The results (finals): Singles: Men: Sathish Kumar bt R. Ravi 21-14, 21-16; **women:** Isharani Baruah bt Unnati Hooda 21-13, 21-19, 21-11.
Doubles: Men: Hariharan Amsakarunan & Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi bt Shyam Prasad & Subramanian Sunjith 21-13, 21-14; **women:** Miku Shigeta & Maya Taguchi (Jpn) bt Priya Konjengbam & Shruti Mishra 17-21, 21-18, 21-15; **mixed:** Phatharathorn Nipornram & Nattomon Laisuan (Tha) bt Sathish Kumar Karunakaran & Aadya Variyath 23-21, 21-17, 22-20.

Champions: The winners in the Infosys Foundation India International Challenge badminton tournament.

Sporting Club Bengaluru makes merry

Sporting Club Bengaluru blanked Kickstart FC 9-0 in the BDFA Super Division League football here on Sunday.
The results: MEG & Center FC 3 (Shaik Muzeeb 2, 83, Imnaakum Temsu 3) bt ASC & Center FC 2 (Dip Rajak Ahamed 68, A.K. Adil Abbas 73);
Sporting Club Bengaluru 9 (Ishaan Raghunanda 8, Arif Shaikh 26, O.M. Asif 31, Saiyyad Umair 45+1, Shaiborlang Kharpan 52, 90, Roshan Gigi 58, V. Vignesh 62, 67) bt Kickstart FC 0.

State-ranking TT from Nov. 7

Bangalore Rural District Table Tennis Association will conduct M.S. Ramaiah Memorial silver jubilee State-ranking table tennis tournament from November 7 to 11 at The Malleshwaram Association.
Entries are to be registered at *https://karnatakatt.web.app/home* and the last date for the same is November 3 (6 p.m.). For more details, call M. Sham (8217796386).

Warriors SC routs New Ashoka HC

Warriors Sports Club thrashed New Ashoka HC 9-0 in the KSHA-BHA c-division hockey league championship here on Sunday. In another match, Ideal Sports Club-B walloped BCYA-B 9-1.

Ashmit and Anuj make winning moves

Ashmit Anand, with six wins out of six, won the under-16 title at the Champions Chess Academy tournament here on Sunday. Anuj Saravanan took home the under-10 crown with an identical record.

Root FC blanks IFF

Roots FC defeated Indian Football Factory 5-0 in The Amateur League (TAL) football season 12 conference-A here on Sunday.
The results: Roots FC bt Indian Football Factory 5-0; Titans FC drew with Yataghan FC 1-1; Raptors FC drew with Alchemy IFA 0-0; Rebels FC bt BBFS Academy 2-0; Gremio FC bt Samurai BFC 4-1.
KSFA Youth League: U-11: IFAEP bt Young Strides FA 4-0; Bangalore Warriors bt Bul 7's FA 5-2; Eqo Sports FA drew with Offside Trap FA 2-2; Stadium FAC bt BIFA 3-1; William FA bt BYFL-A 4-2; BYFL-B bt Shubhodaya FC 5-2.

Peter to helm State football team at National Games

John Peter will lead the 23-member strong Karnataka men's football team at the 37th National Games to be held from Oct. 30 to Nov. 8 in Goa. Karnataka will open against Punjab on Monday, before taking on Goa (Wednesday) and Services (Friday).

The team: John Peter (Capt.), P. Ankith, Kabir Toufik, Nikhil Gopal, Prasanth Kalinga, R. Srijith, Shelton Nickson, Karthik Govind Swamy, Nikhil Raj, Sudheer Kotikela, R. Vishal, Gautam Rajesh, Ajay Alex Antonay, Sarath Rajkumar, Edwin Rossario, K. Deepak Kumar, Uddith Gopinath, Y.V. Praful Kumar, Nivrutti Sunil Pavanoji, Hendry Antonay.

Head coach: Sunil Kumar Kurup; **asst. coach:** Xavier Vijay Kumar; **manager:** L. Manjunath.

LIVE TELECAST

Cricket World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2 p.m.
Hockey: Women's Asian Champions Trophy, India vs China, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

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INBRIEF

Bhambri-Cash duo claims Brest Challenger title

Yuki Bhambri and Julian Cash of Britain beat top seeds Robert Galloway (Britain) and Albano Olivetti (France) 6-7(5), 6-3, [10-5] in the doubles final of the €118,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Brest, France, on Sunday.

Indian women's football team's Olympics dream over

The Indian women's football team's Olympics dreams went up in smoke after it lost 1-3 to Vietnam in a group C match of the AFC qualifiers in Tashkent on Sunday.

The result: Vietnam 3 (Huyn Nhu 4, Tran Thi Hai Linh 22, Pham Hai Yen 73) bt India 1 (Sandhiya Ranganathan 80).

Rovanpera seals second straight World rally title

Kalle Rovanpera sealed his second straight World rally title on Sunday. The 23-year-old Finn finished second to Thierry Neuville in the Central European Rally to take an unassailable lead in the standings with one round remaining.

Sreenidi and Mohd. Sporting post wins in the I-League

Sreenidi Deccan began its I-League campaign with a 4-0 thrashing of NEROCA in Hyderabad on Saturday. In another match, Mohd. Sporting SC got the better of Aizawl FC 2-1 at Naihati.

The results: Sreenidi Deccan 4 (Munoz 22, 85-pen; Lalromawia 57, Lalbiakliana 90+5) bt NEROCA 0; Mohd. Sporting 2 (Lalmuanpuia 7, Gomez 28) bt Aizawl 1 (Lalrinfela 12).

Touch Of Grey lives up to his billing in 1xBet Mysore Derby

MYSURU: S. Narredu-trained Touch Of Grey (Suraj Narredu up) won the 1xBet Mysore Derby, the stellar attraction of the concluding day's races here on Sunday (Oct. 29). The winner is owned by M/s. Balam Mohla, Anil Saraf & Apana Subaiya P. Suraj Narredu won three races on the day.

Suraj confidently piloted the colt and settled down to third position till the bend before manoeuvring his mount from the outside in the home stretch. Touch Of Grey started galloping with giant strides and overtook stablemate Fearless Joey near the 400m to win resolutely.

LEADING OWNER: Balam Mohla (stake money of ₹28,42,657).
CHAMPION TRAINER: S. Narredu (14 wins).
CHAMPION JOCKEY: Suraj Narredu (12 wins).
CHAMPION JOCKEY CLAIMING ALLOWANCE: Inayat (6 wins).
HORSE OF THE SEASON: Touch Of Grey.
THE RESULTS:

1. DELHI RACE CLUB TROPHY (DIV. II): FIFTY GRAND (Angad) 1, Raptor (G. Vivek) 2, Code Of Honour (S. Shareef) 3 and Unity (M. Naveen) 4. 1-1/2, 1 and 1/2. 1m, 12.27s. ₹45 (w), 14, 20 and 15 (p), SHP: 41, THP; 54, FP: 418, Q: 176, Trinella: 1,292, Exacta: 1,793. Favourite: Code Of Honour. Owner and trainer: Mr. Poorna Chandra Tejaswi.

2. DELHI RACE CLUB TROPHY (DIV. I): SPARKLING NIGHT (Inayat) 1, Shooting Venus (S. John) 2, D Fighter (Koshi K) 3 and Country's Major (C. Umesh) 4. Not run: Game Boy. 3/4, 1/2 and 1-3/4. 1m, 12.39s. ₹22 (w), 10, 13 and 25 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 64, FP: 88, Q: 47, Trinella: 788, Exacta: 1,331. Favourite: Sparkling Night. Owner: Kr. Digvijay Singh Shekhawat. Trainer: Vinesh Naik.

3. ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB TROPHY: OSIRIS (M. Naveen) 1, Dallas (Koshi K) 2, Pastiche (Darshan) 3 and Ultimate Striker (Akshay K) 4. Snk, 1 and 2-1/2. 1m, 05.56s. ₹43 (w), 17, 57 and 18 (p), SHP: 177, THP: 61, FP: 2,115, Q: 1,518, Trinella: 9,234, Exacta: 17,504. Favourite: Ultimate Striker. Owners: M/s. M. Lakshminarayana, M. Venkatarama & R.N. Vijaya Kumar. Trainer: M. Rajendra Singh.

4. MADRAS RACE CLUB TROPHY: IMMORTAL BEAUTY (Suraj) 1, I Can (Angad) 2, Fair Counsel (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Natural Gold (Inayat) 4. Not run: Flying Brave. 2-3/4, 5-1/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 23.35s. ₹14 (w), 10, 13 and 40 (p), SHP: 24, THP: 109, FP: 22, Q: 19, Trinella: 318, Exacta: 3,525. Favourite: Immortal Beauty. Owners: Kunal Gupta Stud Farm LLP rep by Mr. Kunal Gupta & Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal. Trainer: S. Narredu.

5. BANGALORE TURF CLUB TROPHY: POLISHED GIRL (Suraj) 1, Siege Courageous (S. John) 2, Ashtar (Srinath) 3 and Dandi Satyagraha (R.S. Bhati) 4. 2-1/4, 5 and 1-1/2. 1m, 08.94s. ₹17 (w), 11 and 10 (p), SHP: 20, THP: 21, FP: 25, Q: 13, Trinella: 53, Exacta: 125. Favourite: Polished Girl. Owners: M/s. Daulat Chhabria, K. Kaliyaperumal, M. Ravi & Mrs. R. Chellam. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

6. 1XBET MYSORE DERBY 2023: TOUCH OF GREY (TOP CLASS-ZACARA) SURAJ 1, Ruling Dynasty (Western Aristocrat-Super Class) Akshay K 2, Fast Pace (Western Aristocrat-Striking) G. Vivek 3 and Magnus (Speaking Of Which-Star Nijinsky) Srinath 4. 3-1/4, 3 and 3-1/4. 2m, 01.33s. ₹15 (w), 10, 12 and 18 (p), SHP: 24, THP: 37, FP: 33, Q: 19, Trinella: 86, Exacta: 192. Favourite: Touch Of Grey. Owners: M/s. Balam Mohla, Anil Saraf & Apana Subaiya P. Trainer: S. Narredu.

7. ROYAL WESTERN INDIA TURF CLUB LTD TROPHY: THE KING N I (Koshi K) 1, Obsidian (Inayat) 2, Devils Magic (Antony) 3 and Furious Fun (T. Pavan) 4. Not run: High Opinion. 1, 2-1/4 and Shd. 1m, 10.69s. ₹33 (w), 14, 19 and 12 (p), SHP: 59, THP: 51, FP: 313, Q: 136, Trinella: 638, Exacta: 21,440. Favourite: Devils Magic. Owner: Mr. Dinesh Kumar K. Trainer: Warren Singh.

8. HYDERABAD RACE CLUB TROPHY: ARALINA (Antony) 1, Tom Cruiser (A.K. Aniket) 2, Gilded Butterfly (Hindu S) 3 and Magic Circle (Koshi K) 4. 1-3/4, Nose and 3. 1m, 23.32s. ₹20 (w), 12, 18 and 12 (p), SHP; 53, THP: 46, FP: 104, Q: 106, Trinella: 214, Exacta: 672. Favourite: Aralina. Owners: M/s. Rajan Aggarwal, Gautam Agarwal, Ms. Ameeta Mehra, Mr. Haider Soomar & Arun Alagappan Racing LLP rep by Mr. Arun Alagappan. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

Jackpot: ₹203 (164 tkts.); Runner-up: 49 (290 tkts.); Mini Jackpot: 613 (three tkts.); Treble (i): 1,182 (carried over); (ii): 171 (six tkts.); (iii): 130 (14 tkts.).

Winning combination: The owners of Touch of Grey Yashika Apana (second from left), P. Balam Mohla (third from right), Apana Subaiya (second from right) along with (from left) breeder Gurupal Singh, trainer Satish Narredu, jockey Suraj Narredu and chairman of MRC K.M. Chandre Gowda after the colt's success in the 1xBET Mysore Derby. M.A. SRIRAM

Chennaiyin routs 10-man Punjab at home

ISL-10

Aneesh Dey
CHENNAI

Chennaiyin FC won its second match on the trot, cruising past Punjab FC 5-1 in Chennai on Sunday. Ryan Edwards, Connor Shields, Rafael Crivellaro and Vincy Barretto got on the scoresheet to secure the first home victory for the Marina Machans this season as Khundongbam Krishnananda clinched the solitary goal for PFC.

Advantage

Having an extra man turned advantageous for the home side.

A clean sheet for CFC would have been the icing on the cake, but Krishnananda's effort from the edge of the box beat Debjit Majumdar as Punjab got a late consolation.

The result:
Chennaiyin FC 5 (Edwards 24, Shields 27 & 56, Crivellaro 46-pen, Barretto 84) bt Punjab FC 1 (Krishnananda 86).

Mysterious Angel for feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer L.V.R. Deshmukh's Mysterious Angel, who ran second in her last start, should make amends in the Bold Venture Plate, the chief event of the concluding day's races of Hyderabad Monsoon races 2023 here on Monday (Oct. 30).

The stewards of the Hyderabad Race Club resolved to cancel the 26th day of the races to be held on Tuesday (Oct. 31) due to paucity of runners.

1 SHAPHIR PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 12.35 p.m.: 1. Plethora (4) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Kenna (2) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 59, 3. Subha (9) Afroz Khan 58, 4. Sound Echo (8) B. Nikhil 57.5, 5. Ruby Red (6) Akshay Kumar 56, 6. Golden Forza (3) A.A. Vikrant 55, 7. American Flame (5) Abhay Singh 52.5, 8. Spiritual Power (10) Vivek G 52.5, 9. Deccan Daisy (1) Ajay Kumar 50.5 and 10. Deccan Ranger (7) Surya Prakash 50.5.
1. RUBY RED, 2. KENNA, 3. SUBHA

2 SOLARIO PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.05: 1. Tripurari (10) Vivek G 60.5, 2. Angel Tesoro (13) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 59, 3. Fatuma (2) A.M. Tograllu 58, 4. Thunder Knight (6) Ajay Kumar 58, 5. Soorya Vahan (7) Md. Ismail 57, 6. Bold Beauty (5) P. Sai Kumar 54.5, 7. Toffee (8) Abhay Singh 54, 8. Federer (–), 9. Good Tidings (11) Mohit Singh 53, 10. Santa Barbara (1) Md. Ekram Alam 53, 11. Eminecy (3) Surya Prakash 52.5, 12. Indian Warrior (12) Shivansh 52, 13. Shazia (9) G. Naresh 51.5 and 14. The Platinum Queen (4) Santosh Raj 50,
1. BOLD BEAUTY, 2. EMINENCY, 3. TRIPURARI

3 SANGAREDDY PLATE (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.35: 1. D Yes Boss (1) G. Naresh 60, 2. Salisbury (2) Mohit Singh 60, 3. Aerial Combat (9) P. Ajeeth Kumar 59.5, 4. Master Touch (5) Ajay Kumar 59.5, 5. First Class (8) B. Nikhil 57.5, 6. Exponent (3) Surya Prakash 54.5, 7. Challenger (7) Md. Ekram Alam 54, 8. Forever Bond (4) Antony Raj S 54 and 9. Ok Boss (6) Abhay Singh 51.5.
1. SALISBURY, 2. FIRST CLASS, 3. FOREVER BOND

4 NEWMARKET PLATE (1,600m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 2.05: 1. Candy Girl (2) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Nugget (3) Ajay Kumar 59, 3. Royal Grace (5) Afroz Khan 59, 4. Blissful (1) R.S. Jodha 56.5, 5. Huntingdon (4) S. Saqlain 56.5, 6. High Command (6) Antony Raj S 55.5, 7. Shazam (8) B. Nikhil 55 and 8. Morior Invictus (7) Surya Prakash 53.
1. HUNTINGDON, 2. NUGGET, 3. HIGH COMMAND

5 BOLD VENTURE PLATE (1,600m), rated 80 and above (Cat. I), 2.40: 1. Mysterious Angel (5) Kuldeep Singh 63, 2. Akido (4) Akshay Kumar 61, 3. Watch My Stride (3) Shivansh 60.5, 4. Painted Apache (1) P. Ajeeth Kumar 58, 5. Yesterday (6) A.M. Tograllu 55 and 6. Lucky Zone (2) Surya Prakash 50.
1. MYSTERIOUS ANGEL, 2. AKIDO

6 SHAPHIR PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.15: 1. Only The Brave (7) Santosh Raj 60, 2. Saint Emilion (8) Shivansh 58.5, 3. Fly Me (5) Akshay Kumar 58, 4. Pontefract (6) S. Saqlain 57.5, 5. Cosmico (1) G. Naresh 56, 6. Star Cruise (9) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 54.5, 7. Ambitious Star (2) Md. Ekram Alam 54, 8. Pair Of Wings (3) Afroz Khan 51.5, 9. Bien Pensant (10) Surya Prakash 51 and 10. Urgent (4) Abhay Singh 51.
1. FLY ME, 2. ONLY THE BRAVE, 3. STAR CRUISE

7 NAWAB MEHDI JUNG BAHADUR MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.50: 1. Miss Marvellous (4) A. Imran Khan 60, 2. Wallop And Gallop (8) P. Ajeeth Kumar 59.5, 3. Alabama (5) Akshay Kumar 59, 4. True Icon (1) R.S. Jodha 59, 5. Star Babe (9) N.B. Kuldeep 55.5, 6. Nucleus (2) Mohit Singh 54.5, 7. Golden Gazelle (6) Vivek G 53.5, 8. Rising Tycoon (7) Ajay Kumar 51.5, 9. Encore (10) P. Sai Kumar 50.5 and 10. Starwalt (3) Surya Prakash 50.
1. ALABAMA, 2. MISS MARVELLOUS, 3. RISING TYCOON

8 DR. HARISH CHANDRA MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.25: 1. City Of Blessing (1) Ajay Kumar 60, 2. See My Spark (6) Afroz Khan 60, 3. Angelita (10) Shivansh 58, 4. Best Buddy (2) R.S. Jodha 58, 5. Its On (4) B. Nikhil 54, 6. Exclusive Luck (7) Md. Ismail 54, 7. Star Racer (8) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 53.5, 8. Doe A Deer (11) S. Saqlain 53, 9. Cabello (9) P.Sai Kumar 52, 10. Top In Class (3) G. Naresh 52 and 11. Classy Dame (5) Md. Ekram Alam 50.5.
1. CITY OF BLESSING, 2. CLASSY DAME, 3. DOE A DEER

9 SHAMSHABAD PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5.00: 1. D Right Tie (7) Deepak Singh 60, 2. Indian Temple (10) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 59.5, 3. Role Model (2) Md. Ekram Alam 59.5, 4. Terenga (8) Antony Raj S 59, 5. Blazing Gun (5) Akshay Kumar 58.5, 6. Hoping Sky (6) Mohit Singh 58, 7. Beauty Flame (4) N.B. Kuldeep 57.5, 8. Sacred Bond (11) Afroz Khan 55, 9. Carnival Lady (3) B. Nikhil 54.5, 10. Moon Walk (9) Shivansh 54.5, 11. Young Diana (12) Abhay Singh 54.5 and 12. Muaser (1) G. Naresh 51.

1. BLAZING GUN, 2. TERENGA, 3. SACRED BOND

Day's Best: **HUNTINGDON**
Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9.
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